



ABOVE: Katherine Jenkins traces her Porthcawl roots. (See page 22).

# Bridgend & Porthcawl

# GEM



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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6TH, 2012

## WINTER SERVICING

See feature on pages 23-25 **KEEP YOUR CAR IN TIP TOP CONDITION!**

GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

## In Business Update

Feature on Pages 16-17

## Dentist's £15,584 NHS fraud

Report by AJ SICLUNA

**A S E L F - EMPLOYED dental surgeon who practiced in Bridgend and who defrauded the NHS of thousands of pounds by submitting false claims for treatment has been sentenced to 10 months imprisonment, suspended for two years, at Cardiff Crown Court.**

During the investigation by NHS Counter Fraud Services (Wales), 51 statements were taken from patients who said they never received the claimed treatment.

Some were never seen by the defendant, said prosecutor Karl Harrison. David Hurst (31) of Caeff Mount, Dinas Powys, had admitted 69 offences of false accounting before Vale Magistrates and had been committed to the Crown Court for sentence.

The total loss, said Mr Harrison, was £15,584, obtained between June 2006 and February 2007.

At the time, he worked at the Bridgend Dental Centre, Nilton Street, Bridgend, where he had an associateship agreement. In April 2006, the NHS introduced a new payment scheme involving an agreed income over 12 months, when the dentist concerned undertook to carry out work for the NHS with targets set involving payment of three different bands.

Hurst, said Mr Harrison, made band three claims - the highest value. He said he placed false information on the computer system.

In February 2007, Bridgend Local Health Board was informed of concerns about Hurst.

He went to Australia until 2009, and the matter was referred to the NHS Counter Fraud Service, and a full, extensive

investigation started. It involved imaging computer records, and an analysis was made and suspicious claims identified.

Sometimes, said Mr Harrison, he would give false details of a patient's status.

Initially, Hurst denied making any false claims, but when individual examples were provided, he admitted what had happened.

He has repaid £15,584 to the NHS, as well as investigation costs of £12,991.

"It was a confidence fraud, with planning, over a period of time," said Mr Harrison.

Hurst's barrister, Nicolas Gedge, said: "In all the circumstances, the sentence should be suspended. The offences were six years ago, when he was relatively newly-qualified."

"He was struggling to meet the demands of his NHS contracts and bit off more than he could chew. He bitterly regrets what happened."

Mr Gedge added: "He will inevitably have to go before the General Dental Council and he fears this may be the end of his career."

He said the toll on Hurst had been considerable, and he had punished himself a great deal. What happened was wholly out of character.

Mr Gedge said he received only half of the £15,584.

In addition, Hurst was ordered to carry out 200 hours unpaid work and to pay costs of £510.

David Rees, who led the investigation for the NHS Fraud Service, said: "Hurst was deliberate in his attempts to defraud the NHS and stole money intended for patient care."

"Stealing from the NHS affects everyone and today's sentence proves that crime against the NHS will not be tolerated."

It was a fun day last Saturday in Maesteg - when the town switched on its Christmas lights. (See more pictures by Scenic Gallery on page 6).



## TOP SECRET SURVEILLANCE OPERATION IN PORTHCAWL

# Local man jailed after £200,000 cocaine plot

**A TOP secret police surveillance operation centred on Porthcawl, has resulted in two men being jailed for a total of 11 years at Cardiff Crown Court.**

Officers discovered drugs worth £200,000, part of what was described by Judge Eleri Rees as "a well-oiled machine."

Nathan Rawles (39), an ex-Royal Marine from Greenacres, South Cornelly, and Dipesh Patel (28) of Walsall, admitted conspiring to supply cocaine between June 1 and June 29.

Rawles received seven years, and Patel four years.

The court heard that Rawles had a previous conviction for a similar offence and at the time of the present one, was on licence having received seven years.

Patel had no previous convictions.

Said the Judge: "What we have here is a wholesale operation. Drugs would have ended up on the streets with significant profits for those involved."

At the time, she said, Rawles had a debt of £50,000 through his previous offending.

She said he had made a clear decision and knew the risks he was taking.

She described him as "a senior manager" in the operation.

Prosecutor John Ryan said that during the surveillance operation, they spotted Rawles collecting a package from Patel.

It was found to contain 1kg of cocaine of 84 per cent purity, with a street value of £200,000. The normal level of purity, he said, was 10 per cent.

When Patel was arrested, he said: "I'm in the \*\*\*\* now, aren't I? I'm only the driver."

Throughout the investigation, said Mr

Ryan, Rawles had been frank with the officers. He said he had a £50,000 debt to others and had denied he had been in any physical danger.

Patel said he had been involved in the operation for two weeks.

Mr Ryan said Rawles played a leading role, in the expectation of high financial gain.

His counsel, Robert Duval, said: "He has accepted that this is a serious offence committed by a man with a previous conviction for such an offence. At the time he was on prison licence."

"He claimed that he didn't play a leading role, but a significant one."

"His function was delivering money and transferring the drugs through a third party."

"He didn't influence anybody further up the chain and he didn't finance the purchase of the drugs, distribute

them or import them. At the time he was under pressure."

He said he wished to turn his back on such

offending and wished to train for the Coastguard service.

David Webster, for Patel, said he played a

serious role in a sophisticated operation, which had a complex structure.

AJ SICLUNA



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# CHRISTMAS FAYRE IN PENCOED HELPS LOCAL CHARITIES – AND VELINDRE!

**SUPPORTERS of Velindre Hospital held a successful table top sale and Christmas fayre in the British Legion social club in Pencoed on Saturday, December 1.**

It was the first time that they had held a Christmas event and there was a big turn out.

Local charities paid for their table, and raised funds for their own cause, while entry fees and the table fees were donated to Velindre.

Diane Dyer, Jan Davey and their friend Moira have been raising funds for Velindre for some time..

Diane told The GEM: "The three of us have a 'production line' making knitted Santas and snowmen, and they are sold in the village.

"I would especially like to thank Elsa Thuring, and our local chemists, for selling so many this year!"

"We were delighted with how well this Christmas fayre went, and we had wonderful support."

Father Christmas made an appearance and there were raffles and plenty more to do.

For food, it was a traditional winter warming dish – faggots and peas!



ABOVE: THE HELP FOR HEROES STALL.



ABOVE: Tilly Johns and Tia Richards with Santa.

Pictures by **MANDY THOMAS**  
([www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk](http://www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk)).

## Latest RNLI rescue highlights need for safety equipment

**PORHCRAW RNLI volunteers say that a recent rescue highlights the need for people to take the right precautions before venturing out on the sea.**

In this case, a group of kayakers were rescued with minimal fuss because they were well equipped, but things could have gone very differently.

The rescue began at 10.55am on Saturday, December 1, when two lifeboats from Porthcawl RNLI were launched to a Mayday report of kayakers in difficulty off Newton Point.

Chris Missen, the helmsman of the Porthcawl Atlantic 85 Lifeboat said: "When we launched, we reached the kayakers within five minutes, and found that a few of the paddlers had been caught in a rip current off Newton Point, and were being taken out to sea.

"As the outgoing tide was so strong, they could not paddle back to shore against the current."

Once on scene, the lifeboat crews took three of the kayakers ashore in the lifeboat, then made contact with the kayakers' group leader to ensure all the paddlers were safe and accounted for.

Mrs Aileen Jones, the volunteer launching authority said: "It was good to see that all the kayakers were properly equipped for the conditions with wet suits, life-jackets and radios.

"If the group had no radio to call for assistance, there was a possibility that they could have been taken out to sea unnoticed, and our speedy rescue could have turned into a major search.

"This call out highlights the importance of going to sea properly prepared, with the correct equipment."

## CHRISTMAS MARKET

**BRIDGEND'S famous indoor market brings its past to life with a special Christmas event today, Thursday, December 6.**

For the first time, the market will be open in the evening as part of a free festive celebration, which also sees the launch of a series of 'sound stations' telling the market's story.

The 'Sound Works' project consists of recorded interviews with indoor market traders offering historical insight into the market and the people who work there. They'll be available to hear at stalls around the market up to Christmas.

Market stalls will be used to create a fun evening full of arts and crafts activities and workshops, competitions, demonstrations, festive food and live music. Entry is free and open to all ages.

**MENTORING WORK on the new Bridge Mentoring Plus Family Centre has started and on December 6, between 10.30am and 12.30pm, the public can discover what the family centre is all about at a coffee morning.**

Contact The Bridge Mentoring Plus Scheme at 46-48 Dunraven Place, Bridgend; telephone 01656 647891.

## MP visits green-conscious students at Llangewydd



**BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon, was recently invited to Llangewydd Junior School, which has just been awarded its third Green Flag and now has full Eco-School status from Keep Wales Tidy.**

She reported: "I was met by members of the Eco committee Abigail, Sophie and Celyn who were my guides for a tour of their Eco school. Their enthusiasm and knowledge of their school eco habitats was excellent, showing me their mini beasts garden, and all the trees and shrubs planted to encourage wildlife.

"The tour continued to the wildlife pond

where they are encouraging a rich mix of plants and creatures, passing by a log circle in the woodland where pupils can sit and chat in a quiet natural environment.

"All around the school there were posters on the walls of their Eco-values and they even have an Eco Rap – Green today, Save Tomorrow.

"They have plans for an Eco lodge in the school and the fundraising begins in earnest for this project in the New Year.

"It was good to see the whole school engaged in eco actions, even the school kitchen was using herbs grown in the herb garden and composting all their vegetable waste.

"I had visited on their Roald Dahl Day

and as I walked through the school, pupils dressed as characters from the books passed me by! Lots of Matildas, Charlies, an Oompaloompa, a Giraffe and most popular by far, Witches, all ran up to say hello.

"At the end of my tour, we had a photograph together – a very odd looking eco committee! I was invited back in the next few weeks to be interviewed by pupils on their new school radio station.

"I invited the headteacher, Mrs Davies, to bring her pupils up to London and visit me where I work.

"Mrs Davies was delighted and a trip up to the Palace of Westminster for year-6 is being arranged for early in the New Year," the MP concluded.

## HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL DECEMBER 13)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
06 Thur	10.57	8.1	23.31	7.9
07 Fri	11.57	8.1		
08 Sat	00.39	8.0	13.01	8.1
09 Sun	01.52	8.2	14.21	8.4
10 Mon	02.53	8.5	15.26	8.8
11 Tues	03.56	9.1	16.19	9.4
12 Wed	04.57	9.6	17.21	9.8
13 Thur	05.49	10.1	18.14	10.2

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.



## CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

# 'Rock bottom' postal worker stole cash from special delivery

A POSTAL worker who stole cash from a special delivery envelope, and who also stole from his Royal Mail sports and social club, has been sentenced to six months imprisonment, suspended for 18 months, and ordered to carry out 250 hours of unpaid work for the community.

At Cardiff Crown Court, Stephen Roberts (53), a man with no previous convictions, of Jenkins Street, Bridgend,

appeared for sentence after being convicted by Vale Magistrates for four charges of theft.

He was also ordered to pay £3,397 compensation, £500 costs and a victim surcharge of £80.

Prosecutor Richard Cole said Roberts was a postal worker in Bridgend with 23 years service.

His manager was contacted by Pyle Post Office, expecting to receive a special delivery item containing £2,500, which hadn't arrived.

Roberts was responsible for dealing with all special delivery packages.

The manager later found a letter suggesting that Roberts was in financial difficulties.

He was interviewed, broke down, and said he had taken the cash.

He said he had taken the packet home and had thought about returning it.

He said he was disgusted by his actions and had been at "rock bottom".

Two further packets which contained cash were recovered.

Altogether, the authorities recovered £2,370.

The defendant was also the treasurer of the Royal Mail Sports and Social

Club. On the premises was a vending machine, and when cash was taken from it, it would be handed over to Roberts.

He failed to deposit a total of £2,839.

He was interviewed, said he had believed he had taken £1,500.

"He also said he had reached the situation where he hoped to get caught," said Mr Egan.

The total loss was £5,700, with £3,400 outstanding.

His counsel, James Evans, said he had been offered a loan to repay the money.

Judge Eleri Rees said: "This was a breach of trust which crossed the custody

threshold."

She said he was a man of previous good character, always trusted by his colleagues.

A large part of his punishment, she said, would be his loss of good character and his standing with his colleagues.

"They must have been very shocked to learn of your offending."

"The sum of £5,700 is not inconsiderable. I take into account that some has been recovered."

"You could have stopped committing these offences at any time."

## Suspended sentence for Bridgend man who threw punch

A TILER who threw a single punch, knocking out his victim and causing him to suffer a jaw injury has been jailed for 26 weeks, suspended for a year, at Cardiff Crown Court.

Gareth Cutter (33) of Glan Ffornwg, Bridgend, was also made subject to a 12-week curfew from 8pm to 6am involving electronic tagging.

He was also ordered to carry out 200 hours unpaid work.

He admitted inflicting grievous bodily harm on Richard Millward.

Prosecutor Nicola Harris said that on October 6, Mr Millward went with friends to Bridgend.

He had been drinking and described himself as drunk. He went to a music venue and had more to drink.

At about 3am, he left and was aware of people milling around and shouting.

A group accused Mr Cutter's group

of staring at them and words were exchanged.

At one point, Cutter said: "So you think you're a hard man?" and punched one of the group to the ground.

Seconds later, Cutter punched Mr Millward to the face.

The incident was captured on CCTV and Cutter was seen standing over his victim.

Mr Millward later told the police that he was now nervous every time he goes into the centre of Bridgend.

Cutter's counsel, Stuart McLeese, said: "He is the sole carer of some members of his family and is devastated by what he did."

Judge Eleri Rees said such disgraceful behaviour made many places "no-go areas." She said that it was alcohol-fuelled mindless behaviour.

She said that the other group had been walking away.

## Brackla ASBO man has sentence cut

A BRACKLA man who breached an anti-social behaviour order, has had his 44-week prison sentence reduced on appeal to 34 weeks at Cardiff Crown Court.

The ASBO had been imposed on Barry Jones (36) of Bishops Wood, for theft from vehicles and also vehicle interference.

Judge Stephen Hopkins described Jones as a "persistent and incorrigible offender".

He added: "Quite simply, he is incapable of keeping his hands off other people's property."

He said he was an experienced thief.

"We have every sympathy with Bridgend Magistrates, and the citizens of Bridgend must be sick to death of him breaking into and stealing from their vehicles."

But, said the Judge, the initial sentence was

too long, and he had to comply with his legal responsibility.

Prosecutor Helen Roddick said one of the conditions of the ASBO was that Jones was not to enter unattended vehicles for three years.

But on November 5, he was seen in a vehicle in Park Street, Bridgend.

He was detained on the spot and said: "It was not me."

The night before, he was spotted opening the door of a parked car on CCTV in Fair Oak Place, Brackla.

The court heard he had convictions for 89 offences, 44 of which were for dishonesty.

Lowri Wynn Morgan said: "I have to concede that he has an unenviable and bad record. The sentence was manifestly excessive, and he was given no credit for his guilty plea."

## Cannabis supplier must sell house and car to avoid jail, says counsel

AN ELECTRICIAN will have to sell his house and his car to comply with a Proceeds of Crime Act Order.

Paul Lewis (48) of Pwll Carn Terrace, Blaengarw, had been convicted at Cardiff Crown Court of producing cannabis and possessing it with intent.

He was sentenced to 10 months imprisonment, suspended for two years, and ordered to carry out 250 hours unpaid work. There was also a four-month 9pm to 6am curfew.

During that hearing, prosecutor Gareth James said police had gone to Lewis' home, a terraced

house, and found seven large, mature cannabis plants.

They went upstairs and found three further plants and seven seedlings.

Mr James said the agreed benefit from the crime was £37,279, with realisable assets of £25,146.

He was ordered to pay that amount by Judge John Rogers.

If he defaults, he will go to prison for 12 months, and he was given six months to pay the amount.

His barrister, Meirion Davies, said: "He will have to sell his house and his car."

An order was made for the drugs to be destroyed.

## BURGLAR HUNTED AFTER ELDERLY MAN IS INJURED

POLICE in Porthcawl are hunting a burglar who assaulted an elderly man who disturbed him.

South Wales Police officers are appealing for witnesses to the incident, which happened just after 6pm on Friday, November 30, in the Danygraig area of Porthcawl.

A police spokesperson said: "The elderly householder disturbed a burglar in his home and was assaulted."

"He was knocked to the floor and suffered an injury to his head. The victim, who is in his 90s, was taken to hospital for treatment where he remains as a precaution."

Police have described the suspect as a white male in his early 20s, around five feet six inches tall. He was wearing a woollen hat, a grey fleece top and dark coloured trousers.

They are appealing for any information regarding this incident, and for anyone who may have seen a male answering this description, or any others behaving in a suspicious manner in the Danygraig area of Porthcawl on Friday evening to contact them.

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Detective Sergeant Paul Mason at Bridgend CID on 01656 679518 or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

## Keeping vulnerable young on course

AS part of the Siaradwn Ni - Let's Talk Big Lottery-funded programme, a 10-week course begins on January 11 from 10am-2.30pm in ARC Day Services, Bridgend, for emotionally vulnerable young people aged 16 - 25.

Free to anyone living or working in Bridgend and Neath Port Talbot county boroughs, the Youth Works' course supports the young people to improve confidence and self-esteem to help them cope with stressful situa-

tions. They can gain a nationally recognised qualification (Mental health and mental illness: Agored Cymru (OCN) Level 1).

The Siaradwn Ni - Let's Talk programme is co-ordinated by BAVO (Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations) and Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service (NPTCVS).

For further information, call 01656 727800 or email rhyshae@groundworkbnp.com to book or for further details.

## Peter Pan-tomime!

BRIDGEND Library hopes to get the Christmas festivities off to a flying start on December 8 with its first ever pantomime - Peter Pan.

The themed, outdoor event which will run from 11am-3pm outside Bridgend Library on Wyndham Street.

The day promises to keep audiences 'hooked' with storytelling,

reading and live musical performances, as well as the grand finale.

This event is weather dependent. If the weather is poor on the day, contact Bridgend Library on (01656) 754830 before making your journey to check whether it's going ahead.

To find out more about what's happening at your local library, visit: [www.bridgend.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.bridgend.gov.uk/libraries).

## PENCOED SERVICE

ON Sunday, January 6, the United Christian Churches, Pencoed are holding a service celebrating the New Year at the Miners' Welfare Hall, Pencoed, at 2pm.

Everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be served following the service.

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# Planning policy change could raise cash from developers

**PLANNERS in Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) are studying a recent piece of Government legislation that could be a way of raising significant sums of money from developers.**

This new policy, called the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), has been taken up by the neighbouring Vale Council, and the Leader, Coun Neil Moore, said that it could raise £40 million over a 15-year period.

At the moment, councils enter into legal agreements with developers under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to seek contributions for facilities such as transport, open space, public art and education.

However, these have to be spent close to the development. In contrast, CIL money is placed in a central pot and spent where it was most needed.

Many councils find that new developments put pressure on roads and public transport, and building up a CIL fund could help them tackle these problems.

It was on April 6, 2010, that the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) regulations 2010 came into force.

It is intended that Section 106 agreements will now, in part, be replaced with the CIL.

The Vale Council started preparatory work on introducing the levy in February 2011 and work on it is running in parallel with the revised planning of the Vale's Local Development Plan (LDP).

In the case of Bridgend, BCBC has recently decided to work with Neath Port Talbot Borough Council on a feasibility study. This will help to determine whether CIL is viable in the Borough.

## REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

Work on the feasibility study is expected to take three months.

Should a council go down the CIL route, there are considerable costs involved – although these could be far outweighed by CIL money.

At the moment, however, BCBC is investing £9,424 as its share of the joint feasibility study with NPT.

A recent report to the Vale Council said that it was estimated that CILs could raise around £40 million from residential developments alone throughout the plan period, and this could be spent on infrastructure.

Additional income could be raised from commercial developments as well.

The word 'infrastructure' can include a number of areas, including: roads and other transport facilities; flood defences; schools and other educational facilities; medical facilities; sporting and recreational areas; and open spaces.

The CIL regulations currently exclude affordable housing, so that would need to be funded through Section 106 agreements.

Section 106 agreements will continue to apply for on site 'in kind' facilities such as open space and public art.

Any council putting the scheme into operation will have to come up with infrastructure priorities, so that it is clear where CIL will be spent and in what order, although the availability of funding from other sources will be a factor.

The Government's planning advice portal says that "Most buildings that people normally use will be liable to pay the levy, but buildings into which

people do not normally go, and buildings into which people go only intermittently for the purpose of inspecting or maintaining fixed plant or machinery, will not be liable to pay the levy.

"Structures which are not buildings, such as pylons and wind turbines, will not be liable to pay the levy.

"Any new build – that is a new building or an extension – is only liable for the levy if it has 100 square metres, or more, of gross internal floor space, or involves the creation of one dwelling, even when that is below 100 square metres."

It adds: "The Community Infrastructure Levy must be levied in pounds per square metre of floor-space arising from any chargeable development.

"The charge will be applied to the gross floor-space of most new buildings or extensions to existing buildings."

The GEM asked the Vale Council for an idea of how much CIL would be raised from a sample dwelling – for instance, a three-bedroom house.

The director of development services, Rob Thomas said: "At this stage it is impossible to provide an estimate because the viability evidence is currently being prepared.

"The rate will be charged on a £ per sqm basis (as opposed to a percentage) and the average size for a three-bed dwelling in the Vale is around 88sqm.

The CIL schedules elsewhere in the UK range from £0-£575 per sqm for residential rates, but generally average around £100 per sqm.

"If this translates to the Vale, then we can expect an average three-bed house to provide £8,800 in CIL revenue."



The digital presentation, with Paul Rosser on the right.

## SOCIETY PRESENTS PHOTO AWARDS

**PYLE and Porthcawl Photographic Society held its annual club competition 'One' on Thursday November 22 at the Rest in Porthcawl.**

The competition was in two sections – prints and digital projected images, and members could enter up to two images into both sections.

Fred Davies, who not only awarded the marks, but also provided a critique on each image, judged both competitions.

In the print section, first place went to Trevor Owen with 'Red Fox', who also had second place with 'Harvest Mouse', and third place

was a tie between 'The Racer' and 'The Singer', both by Richard Craze.

In the digital section, first place went to Paul Rosser with 'Lake Vyrnwy at night'. Second



Trevor Owen receives his trophy for the best print entry.

place was a tie between 'The Look Out' by Martyn Derbyshire and 'Great Woodpecker in the Rain' by Paul Rosser. Third place went to David Jones with 'Bell Tower'. Congratulations to Trevor and Paul on winning the competitions and a big thank you to all who participated for making it such an interesting and entertaining evening.

## MAESTEG CADETS TAKE A STEP UP



LEFT: Corporals David Lakin, Scott Mably and Dan Mably proudly show off their new Instructor Cadet landyards.

**THREE cadets at 631 (Maesteg) Squadron Air Training Corps have qualified as Instructor Cadets, the highest training classification available to Air Cadets.**

Qualifying as an Instructor Cadet has taken them from new recruits as Second Class Cadets, through First Class, Leading, Senior, and Staff Cadet classification, to Instructor Cadets.

The final step to qualification as Instructor Cadets was to attend a Cadet Method of Instruction Course at Llanelli, followed by preparing and delivering a lesson on an ATC related subject of their choice.

The lessons were presented to other cadets of 631 Squadron and Squadron Leader Gerry Lewis, Deputy Commander No3 Welsh

Wing ATC, who was ensuring that their lessons were to the required standard.

Corporal Dan Mably's subject was 'Rules of the Air', while his brother Scott, also a Corporal, chose 'Food for Expeditions'. Corporal David Lakin's subject was 'RAF Fairwood Common'.

Following the successful lessons, Squadron Leader Lewis presented them with their coveted yellow landyards that sets them out as Instructor Cadets. Squadron Leader Lewis said: "I'm very pleased to be able to award these cadets their yellow landyard as it recognises the hard work that they have put in".

631 Squadron meet at Upper Street Maesteg on a Tuesday and Friday evening and welcome boys and girls aged 13 and over. The Squadron also welcomes adults who would like to help at the Squadron. Adults do not need to have previous ATC or RAF experience and can serve either in a uniformed or civilian instructor capacity.



ABOVE: YFC Brainstrust team – David Rees, William Smith, Morgan Williams and Jacob Anthony.

## Success for YFC in recent competitions

Catrin and Sophie Williams with their winning decorated Christmas tree.

**On Thursday, November 25, Bridgend Young Farmers' Club's members took part in a competition evening which included intermediate Brainstrust, Christmas card and decorate a Christmas tree, at Pendoylan Primary School.**

All members did well, with the Brainstrust team coming first (Morgan Williams, Jacob Anthony, William Smith and David Rees), Sarah Joseph winning the Christmas card competition, and Catrin and Sophie Williams taking the 'decorate the Christmas tree' competition.

This year's stockjudging competition was held on November 10 at Neath cattle market. Bridgend YFC had an outstanding number of



entries in every category, and many of the members placed in each category.

Jonathan Howells came second overall in the junior stockman, Eleri Harris-Thomas came joint second in the under-21s, and Gwyn Johnson was third in the under-26s.

The lamb trimming competition was also held on stockjudging day, with Hanna Bertorelli gaining second place and Morgan Smith receiving third.

Overall, Bridgend YFC came second on the day, and a big well done to everyone who took part.

On Monday, November 12, a group

of Bridgend YFC members drove to Gower to compete in the county carcass judging competition. Bridgend YFC had members entered in every category with David Rees coming second and Morgan Smith coming third in the under 16s competition.

William Smith was third in the under-18s competition, Eleri Harris-Thomas was third in the under-21s, and David Evans and Rhys Troakes were joint first, and Bethan Evans third in the under-26s competition.

Well done, everyone you all did Bridgend YFC proud!

BE

## Caring for carers in the Bridgend county borough

**FOLLOWING the recent Carers' Rights Day 2012 (on November 30) carers in Bridgend county borough are being reminded of a free emergency service.**

Carers can register for a special card that they can carry with them.

The card states that they are a carer and that someone depends upon them, and includes a special identity number and phone number for the Bridgelink Telecare 24-hour control centre.

The card is administered by Bridgend Carers Centre, which supports people that care for family members, partners, friends or neighbours.

When someone calls the centre and provides the card's identity number, the centre can check who the card holder's emergency contacts are. If they can't help, the

centre will organise suitable care using a mobile response team.

Coun Lyn Morgan, cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "Carers do a fantastic job in Bridgend county borough – but if they get ill or are caught up in an emergency, what happens to the people they look after?"

"This emergency carers' card can hopefully help give peace of mind that a loved one would be in good hands should a person be unable to get to them."

The card does not feature any personal information and is free to all carers in the county borough.

For more information, call Bridgend Carers Centre on 01656 658479, or email: enquiries@bridgendcarers.co.uk.

## Victorian Christmas

**THE Book Doctors will be following their successful World Book Day event in at the Civic Offices, Bridgend, by aiding visitors at 'A Victorian Christmas' in Brynagarw House and Country Park on December 15-16 to 'diagnose' books for the festive season.**

This year's 'A Victorian Christmas' will be "bigger and better than ever", with the

Christmas market accompanied by old-fashioned rides and stalls, festive music, children's entertainers and storytellers.

Father Christmas himself will be welcoming visitors to his special Brynagarw grotto, and the weekend will conclude with carol singing on the Brynagarw House lawn at 7.30pm on Sunday, December 16.

Contact Brynagarw House on 01656 729009 for full details.



# Accolade for Caerau regeneration project



In the background (left to right) are: Matthew Rowlands (Noddfa Chapel), resident Lynda Thomas, Coun Wyn Davies, Kerry Davies (Communities First), Aled Singleton (BCBC), resident Chris Brown, Coun Phil White (cabinet member for communities), resident Megan Evans, Coun Phil John, Steve Pope (BCBC). In the foreground are residents David Llewellyn and Kath Cross.

A PROJECT which has transformed Caerau's village centre has been praised in the finals of a prestigious national competition.

The colourful makeover of the village's so-called 'tin shops' area was highly commended in the community-led regeneration category of the 'Regeneration and Renewal Awards 2012'.

It was the only Welsh finalist in the category, and was narrowly piped to the post by a project which built 3,300 new homes in Coventry.

However, it was praised by judges for the

way residents had worked with Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and its partners to achieve a dramatic transformation of the area.

A BCBC spokeswoman said: "The patch of land off Caerau Road, once a busy row of traditional retailers known affectionately as the 'tin shops' had become an over-grown eyesore and a target for anti-social behaviour."

In a joint regeneration project led by BCBC, and largely funded through the Welsh Government's Western Valleys Strategic Regeneration fund, the area is now unrecognisable thanks to the input

of local people who took a leading role in influencing the design.

Working with Caerau Communities First, residents conducted research to ensure that Caerau's history and traditions were reflected in the new development.

They also introduced a colourful makeover of landmark buildings, as well as hand-made tiles made by the community and inspired by Caerau's past.

Regeneration and Renewal magazine said: "This public realm project has transformed the neglected 'tin shops' area of dilapidated shacks at the centre of Caerau, a former mining village in South Wales."

"The judges were impressed with how flexible the council has been in its engagement with the community, allowing local people to become full partners in shaping the design and configuration of the redevelopment."

Resident Kath Cross, who lives on Caerau Road and who was involved in planning meetings from the beginning, added: "I think this award is a wonderful achievement for a small community and something for Caerau to be very proud of."

"The regeneration programme has done a lot of good in the valleys. What I personally liked was they came to the community to ask us what we would like to be done with the site and we were able to have so much

say."

The award will now be proudly displayed in Caerau.

BCBC cabinet member for communities and one of the ward members for Caerau, Coun Phil White, said: "I was born and bred in the Llynfi Valley, so this project is particularly special to me."

"Together, we have created something we can be truly proud of. This award is a credit to the outstanding partnership of all involved."

BCBC has worked with a group of professionals to develop and complete this project, including designers Powell Dobson Urbanists, artist Anne Gibbs, landscape architect Fiona Cloke and contractors Fitzpatrick Ltd

## Local charity stages climate change debate

AN ENVIRONMENTAL debate, asking the question 'Is catastrophic climate change inevitable?' takes place in Porthcawl tomorrow (Friday, December 7).

The Porthcawl-based charity, Sustainable Wales (SW), has invited guest speaker, Nick Jepson, and the debate takes place at 8pm in the Green Room (above SUSSED, 4-5, James Street, Porthcawl).

An SW spokesman said: "The theory that we live on a warming planet, and that human-produced CO<sub>2</sub> is the primary cause, is no longer controversial."

"However, the future extent and speed of such warming is a hotly debated topic among climate scientists."

Nick Jepson, a PhD researcher and teacher in global political economy at the University of Bristol, believes that it's

already too late, and that we are heading headlong towards a tipping-point.

He says: "A runaway spiral of warming would be the result, at which point reducing emissions will have no effect, as the world turns to desert and 80 per cent of human beings die."

Margaret Minihinnick, the director of Sustainable Wales, commented: "At first glance Jepson's views may seem like the ravings of an Old Testament prophet, but through his deep understanding of both climate science and human-systems, he is willing to put his reputation on the line."

"He aims to show why the internal logic of capitalism means that it is not only spectacularly incapable of halting climate change, but in fact makes it inevitable."

Join Sustainable Wales and Nick Jepson at The Green Room to have your say. Entry is £2.50 (BYOB).

## The tree ghostly spectres that haunt South Cornelly

SOUTH CORNELLY is one of two small neighbouring hamlets to the south of Pyle; its stone and lime quarries now lie abandoned and left to nature.

Lime mortar was widely used for building during olden times, but during the mid 20th Century, cement became more popular and a cheaper substance to use.

The 'original' village is South Cornelly, which evolved from an Anglo-Norman settlement dating back to the mid 12th Century, and was thought to be named after the De Cornelly family, who had adopted this surname instead of their original title.

Thomas, son of William, lived in a house thought to have been on the site of a Manor House called Ty Maen, hidden behind high walls en route through the village.

According to documents from the period, Cornelly was almost named Thomastown, as his father was the Lord of the Manor. But this was abandoned for reasons which were never disclosed.

Ty Maen dates back to 1650, with unusual features, including a Priest's hole, a concealed space for monks to hide from Henry VIII's army after the dissolution of the monasteries in 1536.

This space was discovered in a bedroom behind an old cupboard in the Manor.

Another more likely theory proclaimed that Cornelly acquired its name from a medieval chapel thought to have existed within the vicinity, and dedicated to a Breton Saint called Cornelius.

Lamb Row (Rhes Yr Oen) was at one time the original street leading from the main road, and contained a small ancient chapel at the foot of the stony outcrop.

A fascinating legend maintains that the chapel had a secret tunnel leading directly to the Manor House.

The derelict chapel on the hill was at one stage transformed into a cottage, but sadly now only its ruined remains are left in the garden of a modern-day dwelling.

Over the past two centuries, the back of the hill where the chapel once stood was quarried away during the iron, steel and limestone industry years.

There were several limestone quarries and kilns around South Cornelly at the time, which provided employment for inhabitants from the surrounding area.

South Cornelly quarry was the largest producer of limestone, and supplied Port Talbot steelworks with sinter (ground limestone).

Quarrying began during the mid 17th century, and it was widely mined up until the mid 20th Century: although most of it is now abandoned and reserved for wildlife with woodland and pasture areas.

Pant Mawr quarry was locally known as the Blue Lagoon, as it was laden with water and with the sun reflecting upon it, the glistening pool would display a deep blue appearance.

The Dyffryn Llynfi Railway was a tram road for horse-drawn carriages transporting iron and coal to the Porthcawl dockyard.

In South Cornelly, a lane intersected the railway line when steam trains were introduced in 1861, and was manned by a signal box.

The keeper's house survived the Dr. Beeching axe, and was subsequently converted into an abode standing opposite the Three Horseshoes public house (originally The Horse and Tram) alongside the railway.

The Turpin family settled in Cornelly in the late 18th Century when Captain Robert Turpin (1691-1764) took over the tenancy of Grove Farm on the edge of South Cornelly.

When he died, he passed the farm to his sons, Francis and John,

who had links with Newton in Porthcawl. This family were not thought to have had any association with Dick Turpin, the feared highwayman.

Another famous name relating to the village is Mary Francis, who died at the age of 110 in September 1890. She was hailed the 'Cornelly Centenarian' and 'Honorary Aunt' by villagers; hence, thousands attended her funeral at Maudlam Church.

Flowers to Boppa Francis (her affectionate nickname) mysteriously appear upon her grave, keeping her memory alive, even to this day!

Mary had lived in Chapel Cottage at the side of the railway, and close to a Calvinist Methodist chapel; and even though it is now a ruin, the startling image of a four-poster bed draped in a white sheet with a body beneath is rumoured to float above the invisible cottage on moonlit nights.

Could this be Mary's final resting place during her time on the earth's plane, vying to be remembered?

In the vicinity of the kissing gate, a lady wearing a white dress is alleged to haunt the area. Said to be in search of her baby, she seems to loiter around the gateway waiting for someone to kiss her.

This deed would release the sorrow and reunite her with the child. But who could this lady be, and why is she waiting for such an unlikely gesture from humankind?

The frightful sight of a portly man falling into the quarry before vanishing into thin air has been witnessed. Who could this gentleman have been during his time on earth, and why would he want to terrify the living by recreating such a tragic event?

Fact or fiction? Only you can decide...

Hayley Williams  
hayley.williams550@yahoo.com

## Blindfold walk real eye-opener for regional AM



Peter Black AM and Bridgend Town Mayor Roger Marsh make their way blindfolded along Adare Street with Guide Dogs mobility instructor Cathryn Stephenson and Elaine Kelleher of Bridgend County Borough Council.

A BLINDFOLD walk around Bridgend town centre, organised by Guide Dogs Cymru, proved a real eye-opener for AM Peter Black and the Mayor of Bridgend, Coun Roger Marsh, recently – as it highlighted the plight of those with impaired vision.

They donned blindfolds and carried a long cane to experience at first hand the problems facing blind and visually impaired people as they go about their daily routine.

Mr Black said the experience should be compulsory for all elected officials and council officers.

The event was organised by Guide Dogs Cymru to highlight the hazards posed by ordinary street furniture such as advertising boards, benches and

bins. Local guide dog owners came to offer support, as did several PCSOs and members of BridgeVIS, Bridgend and District Visual Impairment Society.

Mr Black said: "It was disconcerting and I encountered a lot of obstacles. Walking in a straight line was difficult and I was grateful for the sighted guide next to me."

It shows the problems that visually-impaired people have in getting around, and I have a much greater insight as a result of the walk."

Also taking part in the event were borough councillors Cheryl Green and Norah Clarke, plus town mayor Roger Marsh and his consort, Jacquie Dykstra.

All four agreed the experience had been valuable, with the mayor describing it as "mind-blowing".

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# Maesteg welcomes festive season with a Christmas parade, lights, and fireworks!

**PHOTOGRAPHS by  
Phil and Chris Davies  
of Scenic Gallery**  
(www.scenicgallery.co.uk)

MAESTEG welcomed the festive season, with a parade, followed by the switching on of the Christmas lights, and a fireworks display.

The event was organised by Maesteg Town Council, and a council spokeswoman thanked former members of the Round Table, in particular Huw Jenkins, for overseeing the parade.

The honour of switching on the lights went to a pupil at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cynwyd Sant, Elin Little, who was the winner of a competition where children from local schools were asked to design a poster publicising the event.



**ABOVE:**  
The winners of the schools' poster competition, Elin Little, switched on the Christmas lights, accompanied by the Mayor of Maesteg, Coun Lynn Beedle.  
**BELOW:**  
A little one meets Sannta.



## Wellbeing centre activities

ACTIVITIES being held by the Mental Health Matters, Wales, at the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill, on Wednesday, December 19, include a Christmas buffet and bingo from 2pm to 5pm; a trading standards talk with Jemma Robinson from 2pm to 3pm; info with Karen from 2pm to 4pm; and time to change Wales with Emma from 3pm to 4pm.

There will also be a social afternoon.

## Pupils' awards

MANY congratulations to the following pupils at Mynydd Cynffig Junior School who were nominated for impressing staff at the school last week:

Lucy Dyde – class 1, Izabelle Anderson – class 2, Hannah Lewis – class 3, Jude Abraham-Jones – class 4, Neve Mitchell – class 5, Lik To Chung – class 6 and Jacob Hesketh – class 7.

The headteachers' award went to Josef Gray – class 5.

Congratulations also go to the following pupils, who joined Mr Davies for a special lunch last Friday as a reward for their high standard of behaviour: Jed Banwell, Liam Knight, Tegan Bateman, Oliver Howe, Jodie Barnett, Kieran Thompson, Sarah Berry, Mathew Leyshon, Zuzanna Kubala, Caitlin Thomas, Jake Thomas and Molly Leyland.

The school played rugby and netball matches away at Oldcastle Primary School last Friday.

**Rugby** – There was disappointment when the 'A' team went down to a 15-0 defeat in their match; however the 'B' team managed a 5-5 draw with a try by George Buckley.

**Cross country** – well done to the five pupils who represented the school in the first meeting of the Bridgend Schools Cross Country League at Ynysawdre Comprehensive School in Tondur. Ben Evans, Oliver Roberts and Lowri Thomas ran excellently in their respective year-5 and 6 races, while Lowri Powis and Lexi Thompson showed tremendous determination when competing in the year-3 and 4 girls' race.

The school choir will be performing with the Kenfig Hill and District



## COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE

by Richard Sims

Telephone: 01656 746840

Mobile: 07802 439679

E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

Male Voice Choir at the Christmas carol service in Pysgah Chapel on Monday, December 10, at 7pm.

Following this, they have been invited to perform in Llys Ton, Kenfig Hill on Friday, December 14, at 1.30pm.

**Ladies fellowship**  
THE Pysgah Ladies Fellowship are rounding off an interesting year by holding a Christmas buffet for friends and supporters in the vestry this evening at 7pm.

**Renovations** – Although there were other functions locally last Thursday evening, many members of the community went along to see the completed renovations of the vestry.

Although it was a smaller crowd than usual, a very creditable

£207 was raised from the sale of cakes and refreshments in aid of the Macmillan charity.

For information about the Ladies Fellowship, ring either Rhian on 01656 744772 or Karen on 01656 740684.

**St James' Church**  
EVERYONE is welcome to the Parish of Pyle and Kenfig's Christmas cheer concert with Paul Greenway and Friends, which is being held this Saturday at 7pm (tickets £3).

The Christmas draw of the Parish lottery is also being held on the same evening.

**Samaritans' Purse boxes** – Many thanks are passed to the contributors of boxes, knitting and donations. As a result of their generosity, 64 boxes were delivered from the Parish, along with boxes of other badly needed

commodities.

**Advent and Christmas 2012** – The ancient Parish of Pyle with Kenfig is holding the following special services: On Sunday, December 2 at 11am, there will be an Advent family service at St James' Church, Pyle.

On Sunday, December 9, at 9.30am, there will be a Nativity and Christingle at St Mary Magdalene Church, Maudlam, followed by the same in St James' Church at 11am.

On Sunday, December 9, at 5pm there are 1X lessons at Maudlam Church (there will not be a service in Pyle). There will be carol singing at Cwrt Anghorfa, Pyle, on Sunday, December 12, at 5.30pm.

For further information on events and services happening in the Parish, ring Rev Dr Duncan Walker on 01656 740500/07766 710373, or Gareth Gardner on 07779 239302.

**Community centre**  
THE trustees at the Talbot are very grateful to chair Kay John and her fellow councillors on the Pyle Community Council, and would like to thank them

for their recent donation, which will help with the running costs of the centre.

There are a few places left for the Christmas lunches, which are being held on Friday, December 14, and Wednesday, December 19 (bookings only).

**Christmas bingo**  
party – The last session of the year is being held on Friday, December 21. Eyes Down at 1.45pm.

**Scope fair**  
A CHRISTMAS fair and coffee morning is being held in the Community Companions Cafe at the Rees Centre, 9a Prince Road, Kenfig Hill, on Friday, December 14; everyone welcome.

The following activities are also available every week at the cafe: Wii Fit with sports such as bowling, darts and tennis, board games, playing cards plus arts and crafts.

For further information regarding activities in the Rees Centre, ring Donna Akdemir-Young on 01656 741166.



**ABOVE:**  
The town council thanked volunteer Steve Maddern who took on the role of town crier.



## DECISION DAY WILL BE DECEMBER 11

# Tory AMs oppose plans to move town's library

**CAMPAIGNERS are stepping up their opposition to plans to move Bridgend Library from the town centre to the Recreation Centre.**

The Conservative Regional AMs, Suzy Davies and Byron Davies, are urging Bridgend's cabinet to "heed the wishes of the majority of local residents who do not want to see the Bridgend town library moved to the Recreation Centre".

The two AMs cite a consultation carried out by the council, which found that there was a clear majority in favour of keeping the library in the town centre.

They also note that more than 2,300 people have also signed a petition in favour of moving it to the old police station in the town centre.

Byron Davies, who is the Shadow Welsh Regeneration Minister, said: "What's the point of consulting people if they intend to press ahead with their plans to move the library out of the town centre?"

"People already feel that they are sidelined and their wishes ignored."

Suzy Davies, who is the Shadow Minister of culture, Welsh language and tourism, and who contributed to the consultation, said that she had met some of the opponents of the move including members of Bridgend Civic Trust.

She said: "The arguments put forward to retain a library in the town centre are very clear."

"People say that the Recreation Centre is too far out, that it is not on a bus route and that people will be unwilling to walk there in bad weather."

"Libraries are no longer just about borrowing books so this will be bad news for people who use the present library to go online in order to learn, find work or attend events, as well as those who love reading."

"Nobody is arguing that the library should remain in its present building, which everyone agrees is too small, but an alternative has come forward to use the old police station in

Derwen Road.

"I see that council officers have dismissed this move as 'too expensive' but where are the figures to back this up? What research have they done?"

"I will be urging BCBC to fully investigate this option rather than dismissing it out of hand. It could be the solution to the problem."

Mr Davies added that the existing library in Wyndham Street was a fine, listed building and its future must be safeguarded.

"I want to know what the council intends to do with this? If it is too small for a library then some other community or civic purpose must be found for it."

"It is an iconic building in the town centre which gives that area its character."

Charles Thorp, a member of Bridgend Civic Trust, but speaking in a personal capacity, agreed with the AMs.

He said: "I was upset, but not surprised, to learn that the BCBC scrutiny committee had voted in favour of moving Bridgend Library to the Recreation Centre."

He also noted that people were two to one against the move (55 per cent to 27 per cent)

He continued: "The report was, however, lacking in one respect. A scheme had been submitted just before the consultation deadline for the library to move to the Court House in Derwen Road."

"There is no mention of this scheme in the report. The Court House site has many advantages."

"These include vehicle access, disabled car parking, toilets, baby changing facilities."

"It has a town centre location with enough space for the Ty'r Ardd reference section to be included. There would also be space for facilities such as town council offices and a Tourist Information Centre."

"I have heard that the reason this scheme was not selected was cost. However I am sure the council has negotiators who could secure a reasonable settlement."

"The council has spent a lot of money recently upgrading Bridgend town centre. Moving the library away

can only reverse the process, reduce footfall and cause the loss of yet more shops."

A BCBC spokesperson said: "A final decision in relation to the proposal for Bridgend Library has not been made yet."

"This will be carefully considered by cabinet members at their meeting on December 11. However, it is incorrect to suggest that the cross-party scrutiny committee did not consider the HD Ltd option ahead of their unanimous support for the proposal."

"In fact the main scrutiny report (paragraphs 4.30 to 4.33) dealt specifically with this."

"We are very grateful to the 1,200 adults and young people who took the time to take part in the recent survey and share their views, the majority of whom were existing library users."

"However it is misleading to suggest that this equates to the 'majority of local residents'."

PHILIP IRWIN

## Successful Rotary senior 'Youth Speaks' competition



ABOVE: The winning team from Bryntirion.  
BELOW: All the award winners.



**THE Rotary Club of Bridgend held its senior 'Youth Speaks' competition on November 27 at Pencoed Comprehensive School, where four teams from local comprehensive schools entered, including Pencoed, Bryntirion and Brynteg.**

The standard of the public speaking was excellent, making the adjudicators' choice a difficult one!

The winning team was from Bryntirion Comprehensive School, whose chosen topic was: 'Our

'Them and Us' Society'. The chairperson was Amy Edwards, speaker Laura Thomas and proposer of the vote of thanks was Sophie Keegan. The girls offered an interesting and exciting presentation of their views.

Further awards were made to Laura and Rachel Harley and Jemma Hirst from Brynteg School.

There was lots of support on the evening from family, friends, teachers and Rotarians, so that the evening was a great success.

The next level of the competition will be held on February 12, 2013, at Bryntirion Comprehensive School.

WBM

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# PORHCAWL WELCOMES CHRISTMAS WITH CAROLS AND DANCING IN THE STREET!

Photographs by  
**MALCOLM NUGENT**

**P**ORHCAWL town centre was buzzing last Saturday, when the town council staged a Christmas event, with street entertainers in John Street, fairground rides and musical performances at the bandstand.

A Bavarian band made things go with a swing, and students from the Performance House drama school sang carols.

Local charities had stalls in James Street, behind the bandstand and Robert Minhinnick of Sustainable Wales said that they had been busy supplying food and mulled wine.

He added: "We had real ale and lager from the Artisan Brewery in Cardiff as well. The last time we offered their beers at an event we sold out, but the cold weather hit demand this time.

At one stall, Helga Collier (*below right*) was knitting for a charity called 'Fish and Chip' for newborn babies suffering from Aids in Africa.

She said: "They are called 'fish and chip babies' because many are sent home from hospital wrapped in newspaper for warmth."

Helga is asking people to knit small jumpers which will be sent to Africa to keep the tiny children warm. Wool has been freely given by charity shops in Porthcawl, and Helga is organising the charity knitting with friends and contacts.

For Helga's contact details (and a knitting pattern), e-mail [mal.nug@virgin.net](mailto:mal.nug@virgin.net)

Another stall was run by Gemma Rees (*below left*), who is running a project collecting driftwood from the beaches by young people, then turning them into useful objects and selling them to fund the charity.



ABOVE: Spectators in John Street swaying to the music of the Bavarian band.



Robert Minhinnick of Sustainable Wales.



ABOVE: Gemma Rees.



ABOVE: Helga Collier.





# PORTHCAWL WELCOMES CHRISTMAS WITH CAROLS AND DANCING IN THE STREET!

PHOTOGRAPHS by MALCOLM NUGENT



## QUIZ LEAGUE ROUND-UP

ON Monday, November 26, all first division matches had clear-cut victories for one of the teams; two of them with 18-point margins.

Llangewydd Arms, away to Oldcastle 'A' won 56-38 and Tyrisha Nomads ran up 50 to Mackworth Arms 32. Nomads felt they had the 'luck of the draw' while all in the division felt the

quiz was quite difficult for the second week running.

The other two games were away wins for Tondur Railway Club, who beat Six Bells 42-38 and Pheasant Poachers were on the wrong end of a 39-31 score line against Tyrisha Royals.

In Division Two, two big winning scores, Greenmeadow getting 56 to Laleston Inn 'A's 42 and Cabo Roche 52-40 at Coychurch Wanderers. The remaining games

were very tight. Laleston Inn 'B' kept Pheasant Gamekeepers in last place by winning 44-42 and finally Crown Inn 'B' and Oldcastle 'B' drew 42-42.

Here are your four-for-thought:

1. Which dinosaur's name means 'Roof Lizard'?

2. What is the term used in physics to describe the properties of a fluid by virtue of which they offer resistance to flow?

3. Who did Spain beat in the semi-finals of the 2010 football World Cup?

4. In gardening, what name is given to any plant which grows from seed then flowers and dies in a single season?

ARudge (for Quiz League)

ANSWERS:  
1. Stegosaurus.  
2. Viscosity.  
3. Germany.  
4. Annual.

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# 'GO IT ALONE OVER AIRPORT CHARGES'

## – Lobby group urges Assembly

**A LOBBY group which wants to help Cardiff Airport grow, is urging the Welsh Government to use its devolution powers and go it alone – to boost passenger numbers.**

The Wales Air Forum a voluntary body made up of airport supporters, wants the Welsh Government to scrap Air Passenger Duty (APD), arguing that doing so will boost passenger numbers at Cardiff.

At the moment, passengers using UK airports pay £13 if their

flight is travelling up to 2,000 miles, £65 if flying between 2,000 and 4,000, and £81 between 4,000 and 6,000.

Gerallt Marsh of the Wales Air Forum said: "Cardiff Airport has been very unfortunate in the current economic climate.

"It has a relatively immediate catchment area compared to its closest rivals, lower GDP and lies in one of the poorest regions within the UK with one of the highest levels of unemployment.

"The combination of the above led to the withdrawal of its largest air-

by **PHILIP IRWIN**

line, bmbaby, last year. "Many have suggested that Cardiff is facing a 'chicken or egg' situation. Passengers are using Bristol Airport as the services are not available from Cardiff, but airlines cannot afford to start up services that are not certain to make them any money."

He argued that devolving APD to the Welsh Government would allow more airlines to operate from Cardiff Airport, and destinations which were

once marginal could now become feasible with the reduction of the passenger tax.

Mr Marsh said that a HM Revenue & Customs report had suggested that devolving APD to Wales could result in five per cent fewer passengers using Birmingham Airport, and 23 per cent fewer passengers using Bristol Airport by 2015 as a direct result.

He said that the report also suggested that by 2020, Cardiff Airport could serve 3.5 million passengers per year – similar to the amount seen at London City Airport.

Mr Marsh continued: "Bristol Airport has been extremely vocal in protest of the Silk Commission's report, and a quote in the media from Robert Sinclair, the chief executive, said that there would be only one winner – the Spanish owners of Cardiff Airport."

"The Wales Air Forum strongly disagrees and the winners will be the local economy of south Wales, as devolving APD will boost it; and south Wales should become more attractive for foreign companies to set up, especially in one of our enterprise zones."

# Council team 'ready for winter' with record salt supplies



ABOVE: Vale highways works manager Steve Bowen, is pictured with COUN Rob Curtis and highways maintenance officer Karl Lawrence.

**THE Vale Council's winter service team says it is ready for any adverse weather – with 4,800 tonnes of salt in stock.**

The salt stocks will also replenish the 289 salt containers across the Vale.

This is a record number for 2012, compared to the 87 containers which were available in 2005.

Cabinet member for the environment and

visible services, COUN Rob Curtis said: "The public should feel reassured that we have even more salt in stock than last year. Whenever the freeze comes our salting teams will be ready."

Stephen Bowen, the council's manager responsible for the winter service, said: "Salting is carried out when road surface temperatures are forecast to fall below zero and damp conditions are expected or are present."

"Our winter service is

provided to help journeys be as safe as possible for the conditions, and to minimise delays."

Salting routes and container locations can be found on the council's interactive postcode map online at: [vale-of-glamorgan.gov.uk/hig\\_hways](http://vale-of-glamorgan.gov.uk/hig_hways).

For more information, call 01446 700111, or email: [visible@vale-of-glamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:visible@vale-of-glamorgan.gov.uk).

# MP urges residents to 'call the Home Heat Helpline'

**LOCAL residents are being urged to call a free helpline to see if they are entitled to financial help with heating bills this winter, after research revealed that around 6,600 households in the Vale alone are entitled to help with their energy costs.**

The Home Heat Helpline (0800 336699) is a free, impartial and confidential service that connects people and families on low incomes and those in poor health with support, which is worth an average of £160.

"The help available includes grants for insulation, new boilers, discount and rebate schemes," said Alun Cairns, MP for the Vale: "Many people don't

realise what support is available. Anyone who is concerned about staying warm should call the Home Heat Helpline and seek advice.

"I would also ask people to look out for neighbours, friends or relatives who may be in difficulty and make sure that they are aware of the Home Heat Helpline."

# Surgery change

**THE Vale AM Jane Hutt will hold a surgery tomorrow (Friday, December 7) at the CAB offices, on 119 Broad Street, Barry from 4pm to 6pm.**

Please note that this surgery had been previously advertised for Saturday, December 8. This has now changed.

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# £4m facelift for 'Rec' is well under way

**RIGHT:** Staff from the Rec take BCBC cabinet members and a local councillor on a tour of the current works.

**BULLDOZERS** and diggers have been hard at work transforming Bridgend Recreation Centre, as part of a £4m project, with phase one due to be completed by April.

Coun Lyn Morgan, cabinet member for wellbeing reported: "I've been down to see the progress being made with the refurbishment and it's exciting to see the plans now taking shape. I'm following the work with interest. Parts of the Rec will



be unrecognisable by the time we have finished.

"Work is currently under way on the new gym, café and activity studios, and although there is some disruption, all facilities remain open and customers are able to see the building changing around them.

"BCBC's partnership with Halo Leisure is committed to

improving the health and wellbeing of our communities and we hope the new facilities will appeal to regular users and attract new visitors, especially families, children and young people."

Phase one of the redevelopment also includes a new and bigger children's crèche and soft play area, as well as more gym stations, wifi hotspots and work out rooms that can host simultaneous classes.

A BCBC spokesperson said: "The £4m refurbishment will enhance visitor experience and breathe new life into the Rec and is expected to be fully completed by spring 2014."

## Wick tree planting

THERE will be a planting day at Monks Wood, Wick, on Saturday, December 8, from 10am, followed by a re-launch of the wood at 1pm. All welcome; bring a spade if possible! Further information from George (01656 890386).

## PACT meetings

**MORFA TOWN PACT:** Penybont Primary School, Minerva Street on Monday, December 10, at 6.30pm.

**NEWCASTLE PACT:** the Civic Offices, Angel Street on Thursday, January 10, 2013, at 6.30pm.

**MORFA WILDMILL PACT:** The Community Hub, The Precinct, Wildmill, on Thursday, January 10, at 6.30pm.

**BRYNTIRION, LALESTON & MERTHYR MAWR PACT:** Laleston Gardening Club, Laleston, on Thursday, January 24, at 7pm.

**BRACKLA PACT:** Brackla Junior School, Brackla Way, Brackla, Bridgend on Thursday, January 24, at 6.30pm.

**LITCHARD & PEN-DRE PACT:** Litchard Mission (off Litchard Terrace) on Monday, January 28, at 6.30pm.

**FELINDRE, HENDRE, PENPRYSG (PENCOED) & COYCHURCH PACT:** the Welfare Hall, Heol Y Groes on Wednesday, January 30, at 6pm.

**CEFN GLAS, LLANGEWYDD & BRYNHAFRYD PACT:** Llangewydd Junior School, on Wednesday, January 30, at 5.30pm.

**OLDCASTLE PACT:** The Library, Brynteg Comprehensive School, on Wednesday, January 30, at 6.30pm.

**COITY PACT:** Gilead Chapel, Heol Spencer on Thursday, February 7 at 7pm.

## Choir dates

BRIDGEND Male Choir will sing at the annual Friendship Concert in St Mary's RC Church, Ewenny Road, Bridgend, at 7pm tomorrow (December 7) along with the children's choir from St Mary's RC School. Tickets available at the door.

The choir will attend the Christmas service of Remembrance at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend, at 7pm on Thursday, December 13. The service is open to members of the public.

## Lions welcome Santa



Santa is waiting for youngsters in his new grotto in the Y Centre, Porthcawl.

## Hospital radio's 30th birthday

BRIDGEND'S longest running radio station - BLFR (Hospital Radio in Princess of Wales) has just celebrated 30 years of broadcasting.

At a special ceremony at the hospital, the award for 30 years' broadcasting was presented to Mr David Thomas, station manager, who was also presented with a long-service certificate for 25 years' service.

Mr Arthur Thomas was presented with a certificate for 20 years' service, and Mrs Sally Hyde was presented with a certificate for 15 years' service.

The presentations

## Abandoned Frankie's very sad Christmas story



Frankie (above) was abandoned at a petrol station, but hopes he can be rehomed, along with his sister Stella.

FRANKIE, a black cat, and his sister Stella, were abandoned at the petrol station in Pen y Fai, but have been taken in by an animal welfare charity.

An Maesteg Animal Welfare Society spokesperson said: "We are full to bursting so we would love a family to take on Frankie and Stella. "What a lovely Christmas present it would be for them to find a loving home after abandonment."

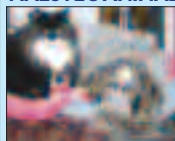
For more details, please call Jan on 01656 721496.

LAST Saturday, Porthcawl Lions welcomed Santa to his new grotto in the Y Centre, John Street, where more than 100 children visited him, made sure he knew what they wanted for Christmas, and left with a small present.

It is still not too late to visit Santa as he is in the grotto for the next three Saturdays from 10am-4pm. Entrance is £3 per child.

JC

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## New housing rules could put Vale tenants under strain

**SWEEPING changes to the housing benefit system come into force in spring next year, and the Vale Council is urging tenants to be prepared.**

Householders could see a cut in benefit, and also could find that children under 15 will be required to share a room.

The changes will come in from April 2013, the date the government's Welfare Reform Bill becomes law.

People in the Vale or Bridgend county borough who rent a property from the council or a housing association could lose some housing benefit if they have more bedrooms than the government says they need.

The Leader of the Vale Council, Coun Neil Moore, told THE GEM: "For example, if you have one more bedroom than you need, your housing benefit will be reduced by 14 per cent of your rent."

"If you have two or more extra bedrooms, your housing benefit will be reduced by 25 per cent of your rent."

He said he was concerned that, if people found it hard to cope financially with the change, the council could be "forced to pick up the pieces" at a time when it was under great pressure to make budget cuts.

He urged people to act now to be prepared for the changes that will come into play in April.

A council spokeswoman said: "These changes will only apply if you are of working age. If you have reached pension credit age, you will not be affected."

However, for people of working age, the rules are quite specific. One bedroom will be allowed for each of the following:

- A couple.
- A person who is not a child (aged 16 and over.)
- One child.
- Two children of the same sex.
- Two children under 10.
- Any other child (other than a foster child or whose main home is elsewhere).
- A carer (or group of carers) providing overnight care.

Some people may well argue that a boy and girl aged nine should not be required to share the same room.

Similarly, there may be brothers (or sisters) who will not be happy to share a room up to the age of 15.

The benefit manager for the Vale Council, Maureen Neave, said: "We understand that this may be a worrying time for those tenants who will be affected by the government's welfare reforms."

"Tenants who may be affected are advised to seek advice from the Vale Council as soon as possible – don't wait until it's too late."

Council tenants are advised to contact Ian Jones, accommodation options officer, Housing Services, Vale of Glamorgan Council, on 01446 709467 or email [ILJones@vale-ofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:ILJones@vale-ofglamorgan.gov.uk) or [benefits@vale-ofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:benefits@vale-ofglamorgan.gov.uk)

PHILIP IRWIN

## VALE COUNCIL GETS GOOD REPORT ON SOCIAL SERVICES

**VALE Council social services have been given an encouraging report by Welsh Government inspectors – but they say that the costs involved in keeping Brynethin Care Home open are putting resources under strain.**

In her annual evaluation, the Chief Inspector for Social Services in Wales, Imelda Richardson, identifies "clear, realistic direction" for social services in the Vale.

In adult services, her report describes significant strengths in access to services, care management arrangements, review, intermediate care services and services for carers.

Processes for safeguarding vulnerable adults are also seen to be effective.

In children's services, a high level of performance has been sustained,

including good performance in safeguarding children.

The report also commends efforts to provide integrated health and social care services with the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, and to collaborate closely with Cardiff social services.

However, the Chief Inspector has identified serious financial challenges, due to cost pressures in the face of increasing demands.

In particular, costs have increased as a result of not achieving the anticipated reduction in numbers of looked after children.

The cost per person of older adults' residential care has also increased significantly in recent years and is much higher than other authorities.

Her report says: "Contributing factors may be the ongoing maintenance of a service at Brynethin Care Home, which is still accommodating a very small number of service users, and a general increase in fees."

by PHILIP IRWIN

She notes that the council has responded to a legal challenge regarding the 'home for life' clause in service users' contracts, but the delayed closure of the home is "clearly impacting upon a strained financial position".

She also has concerns about workforce resilience in the longer term, particularly about maintaining levels of recruitment and retention in the face of "increasingly high case-loads".

The report notes that there are also some areas

of children's services where it has been more difficult to retain staff but vacant posts have been filled and services reconfigured.

Coun Neil Moore, the Leader of the council, said: "We value highly the work done by our staff in social services, often in very difficult circumstances, and the impact this has on the lives of people throughout the Vale who need help."

"So we are delighted to have this positive endorsement from the Chief Inspector as we face up to the immense challenges that lie ahead for social services and for the council."

Phil Evans, director of social services, said: "This report gives proper credit to people, across the whole council, who consistently make every effort to ensure that we can maintain high levels of performance and provide a good range of services that meet people's needs and expectations."

"We will be dealing purposefully with the areas for development identified by the Chief Inspector and her report shows that we are building on a solid foundation."

The full report is available on the CSSIW website at [www.cssiw.wales.gov.uk](http://www.cssiw.wales.gov.uk).

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# Macabre British comedy delivers chills and laughs!

**WHEN**  
Colin  
Welland

infamously  
declared that 'The  
British are coming'  
at the 1982  
Academy Awards,  
it was a prophecy  
that seemed to fizzle out somewhat.

While there has been a steady influx of British talent heading to Hollywood, there have been just as many, if not more, who have been keen to build upon Britain's cinematic legacy away from the glitz and glamour of the US of A.

One such writer-director is Ben

Wheatley, whose films *Down Terrace* and *Kill List* have been resolutely low-budget but oozing quality and delivering huge impact.

His third film, *Sightseers*, has Wheatley directing only, as co-writers Steve Oram and Alice Lowe star as Chris and Tina, a seemingly ordinary couple whose caravan holiday takes a macabre turn when their tempers and frustrations result in murder most horrid...

Every so often, a film comes along that is so leftfield and unique that it bears further investigation, and all of Ben Wheatley's previous films have had that hook. *Sightseers* is no exception, the film won-

derfully funny yet with the darkness that is becoming Wheatley's trademark.

It is very much a collaboration, as Steve Oram and Alice Lowe's script complements Wheatley's directorial style completely. The pair have been on the fringes of British comedy for some time, having worked with the likes of Steve Coogan, but the pair should quite rightly take their place at the forefront of the charge based on the evidence here.

The script is sharply written, the characters feeling vivid and real, the pair keeping everything grounded in reality. It means that the comedy feels natural



by **GARETH JAMIESON**

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and unforced, the situations they find themselves in all too familiar, but on the flip side it also heightens the darker parts of the film.

Knowing that a cou-

ple travelling in a caravan murdering people is far more shocking and scary than a seven foot chainsaw-wielding maniac, Oram and Lowe mine the murderous elements of the characters for both drama and comedy, and both are served well.

Wheatley's background in comedy means that he is well placed to bring out the laughs. The direction, as ever, is natural and with an eye for reality always at the forefront. Using hand-held cameras and close-ups, he puts the focus firmly on the characters and the story, making the outbursts of murderous violence feel all the more visceral, especially as Wheatley is never shy to show the brutal consequences of the characters' actions.

The film rests squarely on the shoulders of Oram and Lowe, and they deliver outstanding performances. Both are more than comfortable with the comedic element, but when they have to go beyond playing for laughs you get to see the real talent beneath.

Oram slowly reveals the chilling core of a seemingly genial man concerned with making sure his new girlfriend

has a nice holiday, while Lowe's slow descent from unknowing innocent to murderous accomplice works wonderfully well, the actress capturing all the angles with aplomb.

At 88 minutes, it feels well-paced - with the characters well fleshed out and the story rounded and satisfying, while not hanging around to take any detours that you would feel lessen the film's impact.

Instead, it delivers big laughs, with a macabre underbelly lingering, and a kicker of an ending that works incredibly well. *Sightseers* is a film that more than delivers the goods and is definitely well worth watching.

**VERDICT** - A darkly comic tale that could put you off going caravanning for the near future, *Sightseers* is a prime example of current British filmmaking. Steve Oram and Alice Lowe deliver exquisite performances and a superb script, while Ben Wheatley's direction gives the film its unique voice. Highly recommended.  
**SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED:** *Kill List* (2011), *Submarine* (2010)

## MAGIC OF THE BALLET

**CHRISTMAS** arrives at *St David's Hall* in a whirl of sequins and feathers as *The Russian State Ballet and Orchestra of Siberia* perform three ballets on December 18-31.

The charming comedy of *Coppelia* (December 18-20) tells the story of a doll so lifelike, she captures the heart of the impetuous Franz and complicates his relationship with the mischievous Swanilda.

Set to Delibes' animated music, this light-hearted ballet is the perfect balance of sparkling choreog-

raphy and playfulness.

*The Nutcracker* (December 21-24) puts the excitement of Christmas Eve centre stage in the most famous of fantasy ballets as midnight brings an adventure in a fairytale world where toys spring to life and the Nutcracker Prince does battle with the Mouse King.

The season closes with *Swan Lake* (December 27-31). The greatest romantic ballet of all time is set to Tchaikovsky's hauntingly beautiful score, and showcases the technical brilliance of this company, with exquisite ensemble pieces, memorable pas de deux and

brehtaking solos.

Beautiful music, lavish sets and sumptuous costumes combine with the artistry and grace of the dancers to bring a truly magical Christmas experience to the *St David's Hall* stage.

Tickets are from £14.50 (children half price), with family tickets from £40. For an extra special treat, you can upgrade to a platinum ticket, which includes a prime seat in Tier 1, a programme and an ice-cream from £35.50. Tickets are available from the box office on 02920 878444 or at [www.stdavidshallcardiff.co.uk](http://www.stdavidshallcardiff.co.uk).

**Christmas in Bridgend**

And some of the treats to offer for you...

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11.30am Visit Santa Claus and his Reindeer (DUNRAVEN PLACE)  
4.30pm Watch the switch on of the Christmas lights and Carol singing around the Christmas Tree (QUEEN ST)

**6th, 7th & 8th December**

11am-5pm Shop at the Craft and Food Christmas Markets (CAROLINE ST)

**Saturday 8th December**

11am-4pm Ride the Christmas Express (QUEEN ST)

**Saturday 15th December**

2pm Elf activities and World Records (ADARE ST)

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Ever seen the streets full of Christmas elves? No? Then join us at the Bridgend Elf-stoddfod for the annual gathering of elves. Last year we topped 1000 elves. This year we are hoping to reach at least 1200! The day will be filled with elf activity and will give you a chance to win a prize in our Elf Prize Draw. If you have an elf costume, fantastic! If not, and you still want to join in the fun, put on something red or green and we will supply you with a hat!

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Christmas Markets

### Bath

Bath Christmas Market 130 quaint wooden stalls line the squares and streets surrounding the impressive Bath Abbey, selling everything you could possibly need for your festive celebrations. With designer boutiques all around, you can't fail to find everything you are looking for.

Birmingham Celebrating its 10th anniversary, Birmingham's Frankfurt Christmas Market has become a huge favourite with both residents and visitors to the city from all over the UK and Europe. Combined with the city's own Christmas Craft Fair of local traders, it offers a total of over 180 stalls to browse and enjoy.

Monthly Shopper

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## What's on in and around your area

### Christmas fair at Peterston

THE Peterston Christmas market and craft fair takes place on Saturday, December 8 from 10am-2pm in Peterston-Super-Ely Church and Community Hall.

Craft stalls, plus homemade cakes and produce, jams, jellies, chutneys, plant stall and Christmas decorations.

There will be a young Welsh Folk Dance troupe and carol singers, hot food and games for the children - admission free.

Proceeds go to the fund to buy much needed new playground equipment for the children's play area 'The Playstation Project'.

For further information, contact Pat Cadwalladr on 01446 760267.

### Councillors' surgeries

DYFAN Labour councillors Claire Curtis and Anthony Powell will be holding their monthly drop-in advice surgery for residents of Dyfan ward on Saturday, December 8 at the Highlight Park Community Centre in Barry, from 11am to 12 pm.

No appointment necessary. LABOUR councillors for Castletand Ward, Barry, Chris Elmore, Pamela Drake, Les Sword and Karl Kuhnell, will hold an advice surgery on Saturday, December 8 at the Drop-In Centre, Castletand Community Centre, Belvedere Crescent, Barry, between 10.30am and 12pm.

No appointment necessary. Contact Coun Chris Elmore on 01446 450007 or 07967 506116.

### Sully crafts

A CHRISTMAS craft fair will be held at Sully Sports and Leisure Club, South Road, Sully, CF64 5SP on Sunday, December 9 from 1pm-5pm.

A wide range of crafters with their craft goods will be on show.

A raffle will be held. Proceeds in aid of the Lifeboats. Free admission. Parking.

### Gateway party

COWBRIDGE (Gateway) Monday Club will be holding their Christmas party at the United Free Church (Ramoth) on

Monday, December 10 from 7.30pm.

Entrance via The Broad Shoard. If you have a learning disability, are over 16 years of age and live in the Vale, the group welcomes you.

A carer, parent or friend may stay with you for the evening. Further information on 01446 773373, 772788 or 781309.

### Carols by candlelight

THE service of Carols by Candlelight at the United Free Church will be at 5pm on Sunday, December 16 (not 5.30pm as previously published).

It will be joined by the choir of Ysgol Iolo Morganwg, and there will be a warm welcome for all.

### Carols at Lavernock

ON Sunday, December 16 at 3pm, St Lawrence Church, Fort Road, Lavernock, will again be the venue for a service of nine lessons and carols, led by the Spectrum Singers, directed by Stuart Edwards from the organ.

Enquiries to Rev Margaret Stark on 02920 701303.

### Whitmore swim

WHITMORE Bay Voluntary Lifeguards' Boxing Day Swim will take place on December 26 meeting at 2.30pm; entering the water at 3pm, underneath the Western Shelter in front of the Voluntary Lifeguard Station, Barry Island.

### Calendar Girls

PORTRCAWL Amateur Dramatic Society (PAODS) will

present *Calendar Girls* on January 17-19.

Written by Tim Firth and based on the Miramax award-winning 2003 motion picture by Juliette Towhidi and Tim Firth, it is based on the true story of 11 WI members who posed nude for a calendar to raise money for the Leukaemia Research Fund, little knowing what impact their radical fundraising idea will have on their lives, friendships and community.

*Calendar Girls* will be staged at the Grand Pavilion at 7.30pm nightly, with a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm. Contact 01656 788148.

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This Christmas give some 'quality time'...

£5 GIFT VOUCHERS - a welcome treat!  
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## Llantwit Major School Christmas Fete

### Saturday 8th December

#### 10.00am - 12.00pm

Ham Lane East, Llantwit Major, CF61 1TQ



Grotto Stalls  
Games Food

Organized by Yr 12 students as part of their Welsh Baccalaureate studies working within the community  
All proceeds to 3 charities as selected by pupils

Coychurch Crematorium Joint Committee

## A Christmas Service

will be held at  
**Coychurch Crematorium**  
Thursday 13th December 2012  
at 7.00pm

Led by  
**Reverend Heather Weddell**  
United Free Church, Cowbridge  
**Reverend Huw Butler**  
Rectorial Benefice of Llantwit Major

Featuring **Bridgend Male Voice Choir**  
COMPLIMENTARY WINE AND MINGE PIES  
WILL BE SERVED AT THE END OF THE SERVICE  
**All are Welcome**

Cyd-bwllgor Amlogfa Llangrallo

## Gwasanaeth Nadolig

yn cael ei gynnal yn  
**Amlogfa Llangrallo**  
Nos Iau 13 Rhagfyr 2012  
am 7.00pm

Dan arweiniad  
**Y Barchedig Heather Weddell**  
Yr Eglwys Rydd Unedig, Y Bont-faen  
**Y Parchedig Huw Butler**  
Bywoliaeth Reithorol Llanilltud Fawr  
Yng nghwmni **Y Côr**  
Gyda **Chor Meibion Pen-y-Bont**  
BYDD GWIN A MINS PEIS AM DDIM YN CAEL  
EU GWEINI AR DDIWEDD Y GWASANAETH  
**Croeso i Bawb**



# In Business Update

## Taking care of precious pets

**THREJAYS Boarding Kennels and Cattery in Llantwit Major is offering a daily dog creche.**

If you work and don't like leaving your dog alone, Jen and John James can help.

Similarly, they can step in to help with problems caused by shopping, hospital

appointments, or day trips. Dogs will have company, be taken on a walk, have toys to play with, and will be fed and given medication if needed.

Jen and John run a small kennel and pride themselves on offering personal attention.

Opened in 1988, they have plenty of experience and are taking bookings for Christmas, New Year, and holidays, for dogs and cats, for long or short stays.

Contact proprietors Jen or John James, Threjays Boarding Kennels and Cattery, Frampton, Llantwit major, CF61 2YR, telephone 01446 793925.

### THREJAYS BOARDING KENNELS AND CATTERY

Large or Small, We'll care For You All

Long or short stay Christmas & New Year Holidays for Dogs & Cats

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bridges you can see your metals being weighed at our facilities.

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## Popular all year... We are Christmas 'specialists' too!

**JOLLY JESTERS** is a children's soft Playcentre where children ages 1-10 years can come and play.

We serve delicious hot and cold food in our cafe and have ample parking for cars.

Celebrate your child's party in style. We will do all the organising and hard work, while you sit back, relax and enjoy

the party.

This year, we will be holding a Christmas disco on Tuesday, December 18, at 4.30pm. Come and join in the fun, with a special visit from Father Christmas. Tickets are only £5.

To end what has been a busy year, we will be holding a New Year's Eve disco at 2pm, where kids and parents can dance the year away. Tickets are on sale now and are only £5 per child.

### JOLLY JESTER'S PLAYCENTRE



#### LASER PARTIES...

Children's soft play centre with ballpits, rope bridges, giant wavy slide, Labyrinth climb, spinnies and much more.

Children's parties catered for Toddler & Mini Tots area (ages 1-10)

FREE PARKING AND CAFE • OPEN: Mon-Sun 10am onwards  
Unit 17, Ely Valley Business Park, Station Terrace,  
PONTYCLUN (close to Pontyclun Station)

Telephone: 01443 228111

TICKETS £5 - NOW BOOKING...  
Christmas Disco, Tuesday 18th December, 4.30pm  
New Year's Eve Party - Starts 2pm

## Season of love, peace, happiness...and proposals!

If you're looking for something exceptional to complete your wedding day plans, Price's Wedding Cars' fleet of two stunning vintage style vehicles, a Bentley Arnage and Chrysler 300C, will provide the perfect showpiece.

Each vehicle is available to hire, and comes complete with a professional and friendly chauffeur to ensure your wedding runs seamlessly, stylishly and to time.

Select from our unique 1920s-style eight-seater Charabanc, a 1930s-style Laudaulet, our modern Chrysler 300C, or uber-luxurious Bentley Arnage.

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## New stylist joins salon

AFTER a very successful year of trading, Beth Daniel is eagerly anticipating her first Christmas in Bridgend.

She is delighted to welcome new stylist, Jessica John, formerly of The Salon in Maesteg, to her team.

The salon is proud to offer a professional service, with affordable prices, in a warm, friendly atmosphere, and to celebrate the festive season, will be offering a 10 per cent discount on all colour services throughout December, on production of this advert.

Please call us on 01656 750108 for your appointment, call in, or find us on Facebook.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our clients and friends a very happy Christmas, and a prosperous New Year, and look forward to seeing you very soon!

## Divorce does not have to mean costly legal process

A DIVORCE can be an emotional and stressful time, with issues of how to divide financial assets, and future contact with children being two of many.

It does not necessarily mean that there will be a long and costly court process to resolve the issues.

It may be that legal guidance is only required at certain stages of the

process.

For example, advice may be needed on how best to proceed when there is little equity in the matrimonial home and there are young children to accommodate, which makes the question of whether to place the property on the market for sale a difficult decision.

Glamorgan Law LLP can help in a variety of ways with the process. Contact the family law team on 01446 771742.

Glamorgan Law LLP

Solicitors

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Pamela Haines  
Adrian Larby**

Telephone: 01446 771 742

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Merry Christmas from Beth and her team

Beth with apprentice Jack Gunter - now introducing Jess John

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20 Dunraven Place, BRIDGEND  
Tues-Thurs 9am-5.30pm,  
Friday 9am-7pm,  
Saturday 9am-4pm



# In Business Update

## Back to basics for healthy pets

**N**OW in its third year, Annie's Pampered Pets Luxury Dog Hotel and Petsitting Service, based at Aberthyn, Cowbridge, is going from strength-to-strength.

Annie is now selling Natural Instinct raw cat and dog food.

Based on the premise that pets are biologically

designed to eat raw food, Natural Instinct have come up with a healthy, back-to-basics approach.

Containing meat, crushed bone, quality fruit and veg and natural supplements, this diet has been found to help with troublesome problems such as itchy skin, loose motions, teeth and joints, breath and chronic wind. Interested?

Give us a ring on 01446 772171 or 0787 259 7293.

## Be ready for HMRC payroll changes...

**B**PU Chartered Accountants are urging employers doing their own payroll to be prepared for one of the biggest changes to PAYE since it was introduced in 1944.

From April 2013, HMRC will be changing the way employers submit payroll information. All firms will have to start sending RTI (Real Time Information) submissions electronically to HMRC every time an employee is paid.

This includes employees earning below the lower earnings limit of £107 per week. To avoid possible fines, and for help and advice on the above, please contact Wayne Evans at our Llantwit Major office on 01446 796313.



Doing your own payroll?

### Are you ready for RTI?

From April 2013 HMRC is introducing Real Time Information (RTI) - All employers will have to make RTI submissions to HMRC.

**Need help to avoid possible fines? For a free initial payroll review** to assess your requirements contact Wayne Evans at BPU Llantwit Major.

Call: 01446 796313

BPU Chartered Accountants  
Llantwit Major

[www.bpuaccountants.co.uk](http://www.bpuaccountants.co.uk)

## MAKE NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION COUNT!

**T**IS the season to be jolly... many of us enjoy this time of year as a time for loved ones, festive fun and gifts.

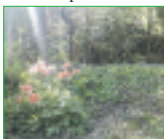
Christmas can also be a time for prompting us to make changes in our lives in the coming New year. These can include quitting smoking, addressing weight concerns, resolving issues with family, children, work and often health.

Our chances of achieving success with our new start improve when we are at our best to tackle potential chal-

lenges. Using Solution Focused Hypnotherapy, Sue Pitman can help reduce stress, anxiety, depression and anger, which often scupper our best intentions.

Being relaxed, motivated, positive and focused can help us achieve success - whatever success means to you.

Contact Sue on [cardiffhypnotherapysolutions@gmail.com](mailto:cardiffhypnotherapysolutions@gmail.com) or 07795 964066 and for information see [www.cardiffhypnotherapysolutions.com](http://www.cardiffhypnotherapysolutions.com)



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Barefoot Studio, Cowbridge  
The Business Centre, Barry

[www.cardiffhypnotherapysolutions.com](http://www.cardiffhypnotherapysolutions.com)

## Poignant story of separation

**A** LOCAL resident since 1970, Lisi Rolfe recently discovered correspondence written by her father.

An emotional journey began as she deciphered the old script and faded words written by the father she doesn't remember and about whom it was too painful for her mother to speak. Poignantly revealed is

how the love for his family kept his hopes and dreams alive throughout the pain of separation and the hardships of war.

By his own words, in Lisi's book, *Pledges of Conflict*, we can catch a glimpse of the man and of his life.

*Pledges of Conflict* is available at the Cowbridge bookshop, or published by Lulu.com or via Amazon websites.



An ideal gift to give and to receive

The fortitudes of a young man separated from his sweetheart during wartime, told through his letters home from the Eastern front, by local resident LISI ROLFE

Available at Cowbridge Bookshop

or published by Lulu.com or via Amazon websites

## Konek-T case study: Keith Wheeler, Sigingstone

**K**EITH has lived in the Vale of Glamorgan for three years. He is involved in the computing project Folding@Home (FAH) run by Stanford University. Their aim is

to help research into diseases like Alzheimer's and cancer.

Keith said: "I took up FAH in 2007 and thanks to Konek-T, I now transmit data to America more quickly and reliably. Another benefit is being able to watch BBC iPlayer in high defi-

nition, something previously impossible."

Simon Mawer, MD of Konek-T added: "People think that because they live in the countryside, they have to sacrifice a good internet connection - they couldn't be more wrong!"



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Human-quality award-winning raw frozen pet food from DEFRA approved British farms.

Attractively packaged in handy 1kg packs.

It's what your pet is designed to eat - meat!

Free pack for first 10 customers - local delivery available (conditions apply)

Tel: 01446 772171  
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## Destination Christmas shopping!

**I**F you enjoy shopping, but dislike crowded shops and fighting

for parking spaces, Samantha B is the shop for you! We have a fabulous

selection of co-ordinated separates, including labels such as Poppy and Emreco. Sam and Suzanne

are full of enthusiasm and always ready to help!

Samantha B is located in Ewenny, just 200 yards from the junction, often referred to as Ewenny's best kept secret!

With the party season upon us, it's time to get the 'Little Black Dress' out! There are many styles to choose from.

If, however, you are not a dress fan, we have plenty of sequins, satin and prints to choose from - add to a pair of evening trousers or a skirt and, voila!

Accessorising is also key to achieving the look! Buying the right necklace or scarf can add a new lease of life to an existing outfit!

Not to mention a great present for those difficult to buy for loved ones in your life!

We look forward to seeing you very soon. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## Samantha B

Ladies Fashions and Accessories

Stockists of:  
Vizaviz  
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20% off for Glamorgan Gem readers throughout December



# Barry Island 'sold' as Oxfam highlights 'land grab' scandal

**BARRY ISLAND** was chosen by a leading Third World charity this week to highlight its latest campaign.

Local Oxfam volunteers and campaigners erected spoof 'Sold' signs to highlight the charity's campaign to stop 'land grabs'.

Oxfam says that this practice, which happens when wealthy countries and corporations buy up large areas of land from poor Third World countries, is increasing poverty.

The charity says that it leaves poor people in Africa, Asia and Latin America homeless and without access to the land they rely on for food to eat and to make a living.

A spokeswoman said: "The recent rush for land has involved an area of land the size of Wales being sold to foreign investors every 37 days in poor countries."

"Few of these deals have been adequately regulated or policed to prevent land grabs, meaning poor people are being evicted, often violently, without consultation or compensation."

The head of Oxfam Cymru, Julian Rosser, said: "By erecting these sold signs, without warning, outside landmarks so close to our hearts, we hope to bring home to



**Oxfam volunteers 'selling off' Barry Island.**  
(Photographs by Glenn Edwards of Oxfam Cymru.)

people what experiencing a land grab is like.

"Land grabs often happen with no prior consultation – imagine being thrown off your land without warning and finding yourself homeless, landless, penniless and at risk of violence."

The UK is the third biggest base for land investors, according to Oxfam's latest data.

The charity believes that the UK Government has a responsibility to act and lead the way on the introduction of more robust international standards to protect the rights of poor people affected by land grabs.

Oxfam is pressing the Government to ensure land grabs are addressed at the next G8 summit, which Britain is hosting next June.



## School choir will give festive air to Dinas coffee morning



**ST Andrews Major School choir** (pictured above) will be the star attraction at the Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern's coffee morning, when the children will sing songs and carols on Tuesday, December 11, from 10.30am to 12.30pm at Murchfield Community Hall, Sunnycroft Lane, Dinas Powys.

There will also be stalls and a raffle. Contact the office on 029 20513700 between 9.30am-12.30pm Monday to Friday for further information.

## Dickens fair

**TOMORROW** (Friday, December 7) sees the annual Dickensian evening, organised by the Rotary Club of Dinas Powys and supported by local businesses, community groups and schoolchildren in the village square from 6pm.

Youngsters can meet Santa in his grotto, and traditional carols will be played by the Vale of Glamorgan Brass Band.

## Eddie's biography launches at library

**THIS Saturday** (November 8) sees the official launch of the posthumously-published co-written biography of former Cardiff City, Barry Town and Porthcawl Town manager, Eddie May, in Barry Library at 10.30am.

His long-term partner Marlene Raybould will lead a talk about Eddie, along with a question and answer session, helped by the book's co-author, Gary Wharton.

A percentage of the proceeds will go to the recently-opened Ty Hapus drop-in centre at Barry for people with memory problems, where Marlene

says: "I would have taken him", as Eddie suffered in his later years.

Marlene added: "I liked the idea of the launch at the library, because it was local, and the Barry community was great when we moved in. They were a real help with him. It's a nice little community."

"He could go out and get his independence back as he was within walking distance of everything. "He loved Wales, and he always used to say to me 'I envy you being Welsh'. Here he always felt relaxed."

**Leigh Gruffydd Sanders**  
(See special report next week)

## PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB NEWS ROUND-UP

### What will Santa bring?

**AT this time of year, those who compute are dreaming of what they would like to see in their Christmas stocking and those who want to put something there for their loved ones are at a loss to decide what makes sense.**

This year, they are somewhat spoilt for choice, due to the kind manufacturers trying to part them from their money by launching a wealth of products for gadget-minded people.

Unfortunately, the age old problem with an age-old solution updated for the modern age. A letter to Santa. As a grown-up, you will be able to do your research properly and have the skills to set out exactly what you are hoping for. You might even include a picture cut-out from a magazine containing a detailed specification or even a link to a website.

Be sure to explain to your partner that you again believe in Santa and you want to be sure he precisely understands what you would like. Then entrust it to the care of your partner for posting.

If you get a couple of shirts and a tie do not be disappointed. After all, you can now be certain that your partner has a deep respect for the privacy of your communications. And remember to say a very nice thank you for your gift.

The poor giver (even poorer after the gift) will have no idea of the detailed specification and would not understand it if it was described in the shop and would have to buy it on trust, hoping for the best.

The giver has no comfort from previous experience. It's no good saying to oneself 'he already has a digital camera' for instance, because his dearest wish might be to upgrade last year's camera to a better one with new features. Exactly the same

argument applies to computers, laptops, mobile phones, printers and the whole panoply of accessories.

Not to mention iPads, iPads, smartphones, Microsoft Surface, and the neat ways that laptops can convert into notepads with or without a keypad.

More and more facilities are becoming available via your TV. Software is always subject to upgrades and refinements.

The touchscreen introduced on mobile phones is working its way onto larger items.

Let's solve the age-old problem with an age-old solution updated for the modern age. A letter to Santa. As a grown-up, you will be able to do your research properly and have the skills to set out exactly what you are hoping for. You might even include a picture cut-out from a magazine containing a detailed specification or even a link to a website.

Be sure to explain to your partner that you again believe in Santa and you want to be sure he precisely understands what you would like. Then entrust it to the care of your partner for posting.

If you get a couple of shirts and a tie do not be disappointed. After all, you can now be certain that your partner has a deep respect for the privacy of your communications. And remember to say a very nice thank you for your gift.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, December 10, at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth (7.30pm). It will be a chips and chat social evening, with a fun quiz by Mike J. See penarthcomputerclub.co.uk.

**Howard Desmond, chairman**

## NEWS/in brief

### ITALIAN MARKET

**THE Mama Mia, Italian food market will be in Barry until Saturday, December 9, on Kings Square, selling food from Italy including bread, sausage, pastries, and sweets.**

Barry Town Council, in co-operation with the Vale Council is hoping to bring more foreign markets to Barry in the future.

### CHRISTMAS EVENT

**Dyffryn Gardens is holding a traditional Christmas celebration for the family this weekend.**

There will be festive music, a seasonal trail, Christmas stalls offering unique, and local, Christmas presents, and Santa and his real rein-

deer. It takes place this Saturday and Sunday, December 8-9.

Normal admission charges apply (additional charge for Grotto).

### CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

**THE annual Christmas Tree Festival takes place at St Augustine's Church, Penarth on Saturday and Sunday, December 8-9.**

It will be open from 11am to 5pm on Saturday, and 12noon to 5pm on Sunday. Entry is £2-50p, concessions £2, children are free, and proceeds go to three nominated charities.

There will be refreshments at the Parish Hall in Albert Road, Penarth, and a home produce stall on both days.

## Thieves leave boats stranded



**The Barry Sea Cadets have been left stranded after the wheels were stolen from their Pico Dinghies (above).**

**THIEVES struck at the Barry Sea Cadet boat base on Barry Docks recently, stealing the trolley wheels from their Pico Dinghies – the presence of a 10-foot security fence no deterrent.**

Sea Cadets commanding officer Paul Phillips said: "Our staff are all volunteers who work hard to provide Barry youngsters with great nautical experiences. This sort of petty theft really demoralises everyone and takes valuable time effort and money to sort out."

Anyone with information should call Barry Police on 101.

## NEWS FROM BARRY MEN'S FORUM

### 'Treasure trove' of papers found in stable

**ON Thursday last, the guest speaker local historian, Don Llewellyn, told Barry Men's Forum members about a remarkable discovery he made in his home village of Pentrych some years ago, finding what is now known as 'The William Evans Papers'.**

Don told how by luck, he had discovered in the roof above the old stable of an old village shop, when it was being demolished in 1975 an exceptional collection of documents describing at first hand, village life in Victorian times.

In 1850, John James, a miner, managed to leave the coal mine and open a grocery shop, which after a very short time was taken over by his son, William Evans.

William kept countless papers relating to his business, his family, and villagers including the vicar, the schoolmaster, the postmaster, and many others.

In addition to fascinating grocery orders and invoices from suppliers, they showed that he stocked a vast array of items, including nine different varieties of cigars, 65 types of biscuits, gunpowder and other dangerous materials.

Although he was a deacon of the Calvinistic Methodist church and was manager of the Teetotal Society, he still stocked and sold a full

range of alcoholic beverages... At his peak, he had 10 horse drawn wagons that made deliveries to towns far and wide.

There were also letters from his six children, who after primary education at the local Board school, where William was a governor, all went on to public schools.

With the closure of the Pentre Iron Works, there was severe poverty in the area, and there are numerous letters begging William for credit, so mothers could feed their children, together with letters from the Rev Rees often guaranteeing credit given.

As well as exposing his ruthless business principles, some correspondence also shows some generosity.

William died in 1910, with his son taking over, but the thriving business rapidly ran down.

Another son, David James, opened up a grocery shop in Barry, little is known about it and some of the forum members would be interested if anyone can supply information of this shop.

Please contact the chairman, Peter Westcott on 02920 594881.

On December 13, Mike Wilcock will be talking about '35 years in the fashion industry.' New members are welcome to come along to the meetings at Windsor Road United Reformed Church Hall, every Thursday at 10.15am.

**PMW**



## Common Sense project brings arts to the Vale



LEFT to RIGHT: Tracey Harding, Art Central gallery manager; composer Mervyn Burtch; Vale Mayor Coun Eric Hacker; artist and project director Gigi Jones and poet Tony Curtis.

A MULTIMEDIA exhibition inspired by the beautiful landscapes and rich history of the Rhymney valley, accompanied by music and poetry, is on display in Barry at Art Central Gallery in Barry Town Hall, King Square.

The touring multimedia exhibition has been created by Rhymney valley-based artist Gigi

Jones. Gigi's paintings are accompanied by music created by world-renowned Welsh composer Mervyn Burtch MBE, and poetry by eminent Welsh poets Tony Curtis and Grahame Davies, written in both Welsh and English.

Gigi explained: "I think of the Welsh landscape in some ways as a large stage set with ever-changing light effects suggesting infinite new 'scenes', story lines, histories and human

conditions."

The Mayor of the Vale, Coun Eric Hacker, officially opened the exhibition: "I am delighted to be supporting this innovative multimedia exhibition," he said, adding he was "very impressed with the work".

The exhibition is showing at Art Central until Saturday, December 29. It's open Tuesdays-Saturdays from 10am-4pm, and is closed on seasonal bank holidays.

## Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D751.

● £2,000: 126822.  
● The rollover, which now stands at £2,500, was not won this week.

● £10: 493123, 562942, 226269, 135796, 836975, 130441, 586210, 526586, 296614, 471562,

717058, 399360, 639945, 851764, 819436, 781649, 464086, 230295, 409075, 540036.

● £5: 634469, 760015, 612218, 884713, 319030, 545456, 528371, 678090, 372704, 373354, 819278, 695651, 784218, 507266, 262485, 363781, 533237, 747326, 845363, 553533, 477863, 408806, 722331, 696970, 687685, 173123, 764658, 410873, 106539, 841025, 267545, 176576, 972580, 289707, 465659,

379753, 731472, 671662, 574581, 770706, 518087, 449838, 329596, 576344, 546778, 844999, 514433, 665505, 716669, 965318, 556349, 353013, 861932, 863260, 118423, 149485, 704105, 795860, 875053.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

## A LETTER FROM SANTA

Readers can make this Christmas a truly memorable one by sending a child you know a magical letter from Santa.

For a suggested donation of £5 to the NSPCC, your child will receive a fun, colourful and personalised letter from the man himself – the perfect gift.

There are five magical styles of NSPCC Letter from Santa for children of all ages, making them the ideal gift for families with more than one child as each child can receive a truly unique letter.

Santa can even write a special letter to celebrate Baby's First Christmas – a keepsake to treasure for years to come.

Each letter is uniquely personalised with the child's name, age, address, gender and best friend's name, and there's also the chance to include a final 'P.S.' thought from Santa when you order online.

The letters are beautifully illustrated and arrive via reindeer mail to make the experience truly unforgettable.

Children will be amazed that Santa knows them so well!

By sending a Letter

from Santa, you can make a child's Christmas and help the NSPCC to protect children all year round through its projects and services including ChildLine – the UK's free, confidential 24-hour helpline and online service for children and young people in distress or danger.

Every £5 raised by Letter from Santa will help ChildLine be there whenever a child seeks help either online or by phone.

And every £25 raised will enable a trained practitioner to deliver one hour of support through the NSPCC's helpline for adults who are concerned about a child.

The reindeer mail-room is open until December 17, and all those who request a Letter from Santa this year will be entered into a free prize draw to win a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Lapland for a family of four.

Find us online at [www.nspcc.org.uk/santa](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/santa) or call 0845 839 9304 to place your order. **JO LEONARD, (NSPCC Community Fundraiser SE Wales).**

## Barry couple sit in at PMQs in Commons



Robert and Dorothy Connell join the Vale MP outside the Houses of Parliament.

A BARRY couple had a close-up view of Prime Minister's Question Time from the public gallery recently on a visit to Westminster.

Vale MP Alun Cairns hosted Robert and Dorothy Connell and ensured that they were able to secure tickets to sit in the public gallery in the House of Commons.

They met Mr Cairns and completed a tour of the Houses of Parliament, before making their way to the House of Commons Chamber in time to take their seats for PMQs.

Mr Cairns said: "I

was so pleased that we were able to gain tickets for them to the public gallery to view PMQs – which is a key event in the House of Commons every week."

## 'XMAS EVENING'

KPC YOUTH are holding their 'Xmas Evening' at Pyle RFC on Monday, December 17 – doors open at 6pm – with entertainment from members and Pil Primary School choir from 6.30pm.

Enjoy light refreshments and get in the Christmas spirit. Raffle to be drawn on the night. Call: 01656 749219.

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# Lilibeth and Matthew win close election!



Mr McNamara (headteacher), Skye Moreham (deputy head girl), Isaac Mayne (deputy head boy), Matthew Williams (head boy), Mr Bourton (head of Sixth Form) and Lilibeth James (head girl)

## Parliament in the parlour!



Mayor of Barry, Coun Les Sword, recently invited the Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School parliament to the Mayor's parlour and gave the pupils a tour, with an insight into the role of the Mayor and councillors.

## SIXTH FORM LEADERS

AFTER the rigorous process of being nominated, producing a manifesto and running an election campaign, Matthew Williams and Lilibeth James have been elected by fellow year-13 students and school staff as Barry Comprehensive School's head boy and head girl.

At the conclusion of a very closely-fought campaign, it was decided to also create deputy posts, with Isaac Mayne named as deputy head boy, and Skye Moreham named as deputy head girl.

Matthew intends to pursue a career in medicine and hopes to be a trauma surgeon. Lilibeth hopes to continue studying history at university. Isaac hopes to read English at university, while Skye has her sights set on joining the RAF at the end of this academic year.

The four students now have responsibilities in a number of important areas including leading the school parliament, representing the school at official events and conferences, leading charity events in the school and also leading and managing a team of year-13



ABOVE: Leon, Ethan and Brendan with their excellent science home learning projects.

prefects.

The prefect role involves supporting at parents' evenings, open evenings and other school functions, and acting as positive role models for other students.

## Independent Learning

OVER the last two years, teachers at Barry Comprehensive School have tried a new approach with homework, or independent learning.

All departments have worked on project based tasks, designed to interest and motivate students. These are set over a half term, around seven weeks, and have elements of research and

choice.

Students are encouraged to manage their time, but also to take a creative approach.

Departments have been keen to celebrate their students' success and there have been reward assemblies for years 7 and 8.

Teachers from the science department are particularly positive about their students' approach to Independent Learning. Leon Hayward (8AJo) and Brendan Lewis (8MT) show the superb models of an animal cell and the heart that they made as part of their Science Independent Learning Project called 'Under the Knife'. Ethan

Protheroe (7LEA) produced an informative poster for his year-7 Independent Learning Project 'Fast Cars'. AC

## VALEWAYS WALKS

ON December 11 at 11.30am, Coffee Shop Strollers, starting at Cold Knap, Barry, outside the Bridge Cafe.

On December 12 at 10.30am, 'Coffin Stiles and Paintball', starting at the Town Hall car park, Cowbridge, near the bus shelter.

New Year's Day walk (January 1), starting at 1pm at St Peter's Church, Mill Road, Dinas Powys.

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# Torchbearers switch on Barry's festive lights...

Picture courtesy of the Vale Council.



Pictures by  
ANDY WICKS



A group of London 2012 Olympic torchbearers dusted off their distinctive white tracksuits and held their torches aloft once more – to switch on the Christmas lights in Barry town centre on Friday, (November 30).

After playing their part in an amazing summer of sport and events, Lara Cowpe, Gary Mickelsen, Pauline Eastment, Karen O'Donoghue-Harris, James French, Julie Crayford and Nicholas Cushen all added some Olympic spirit to the start

of Barry's Christmas celebrations on King Square.

Organised by the Vale Council, the switch-on brought some colour and light to the town hall around the square and the 40-foot-tall centre-piece Christmas tree.

The Vale Council's events officer Sarah Jones said: "Thanks to everyone who braved the cold weather and came out to support the event. "It was great to have some of the Vale's inspirational Olympic torchbearers involved and I'd like to say thanks to Bro Radio, who did an excellent job in hosting the evening's entertainment."



ABOVE: Volunteers Sleep Out for homeless charity Llamau.

## Llamau passes fundraising target after Sleep Out 2012

**FOLLOWING** Llamau's recent Sleep Out event, raising awareness of the plight of the young homeless, the total amount raised by volunteers, councillors and businesses reached an unbelievable £24,592.40.

Including Gift Aid, this anticipate it will reach almost £30,000!

With 66 participants taking part, the money will go directly towards supporting homeless young people across south Wales this winter. That will include a warm bed, holistic support package, mental health support and help into education, training and employment.

The event, sponsored by CPS Homes, took place at the International Sports Stadium, provided free of charge by Cardiff

Council. Almost 20 Welsh companies took. Llamau's chief executive Frances Beecher also braved the elements and joined fellow sleep-outers in the cold.

Frances said: "Sleep Out Cardiff was a unique event and it is a great honour to have been the only Welsh organisation involved in this national awareness campaign.

"Every night, rain or shine, there are young people across Wales who have nowhere safe or secure to sleep.

"Many end up in dangerous places, whether that's the streets or a location that leaves them vulnerable and unprotected."

For more information on Llamau, or to sign up for Sleep Out Cardiff 2013, visit: [www.llamau.org.uk](http://www.llamau.org.uk).

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Morgan Davies Tattoos at 237 Holton Road offers day and evening sessions.

Morgan explained: "I do a wide selection of tattoos and they work out at £100 for three hours.

"If requested, I can do an evening session. People can bring in a design they are keen on.

"There are Christmas gift vouchers available too.

"If people want more information, they should go to [facebook.com/morgan-johndavies](http://facebook.com/morgan-johndavies)."

The shop is open from Monday to Saturday (although not Tuesdays) from 11am to 6pm.

## THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE ORDER, SECTION 16A ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

### JINGLE BELL JOG – BARRY ISLAND

Sunday 16th December 2012

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Vale of Glamorgan Council have made an order under Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as follows:-

**WHEREAS** during certain hours of the day and date specified in column 1 of the Schedule hereto the streets or part thereof listed in column 2 of the said schedule will be used for the holding of a relevant event as described in Section 16(A)(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Council, pursuant to the powers conferred by Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 do **HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT** in order to facilitate the holding of the event, enable members of the public to participate in the said event and to reduce the disruption to traffic likely to be caused by the event the following regulation shall be observed:-

**THAT**, except as provided by the order, the said streets or parts thereof shall be Closed to all vehicular traffic including pedal cycles between the hours specified in column 3 of the said schedule. The penalty for infringement of the said regulation is a fine not exceeding £1000.00

#### Schedule

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Sunday 16th December 2012	1/ Station Approach Road, between Breaksea Drive and Friars Road, Barry Island. 2/ Friars Road, between Station Approach Road and Paget Road, Barry Island.	8.00am to 2.00pm

Local signed diversions shall be in place.  
Access for Pedestrians shall be maintained.

Dated this 6th day of December 2012

M. E. Punter, Director of Visible Services & Housing  
Vale of Glamorgan Council,  
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA



## IN BRIEF... Blaengarw surgeries

OGMORE MP, Huw Irranca Davies, will be holding a surgery on Friday, December 7 between 1pm-2pm at Creation Cafe, 13 Katie Street, Blaengarw, CF32 8AB, followed by street surgeries in the area between 2pm-4pm.

## Cowbridge's 'yesterdays'

IN Cowbridge library throughout December and January, there will be an exhibition of photographs from the Local History room.

## Carol concert

THE Ogmere Valley Male Choir is holding a Christmas carol concert at Llansantffraid Church on Friday, December 7. Tickets £5 or pay at the door. All welcome.

**Barry surgery**  
ELUNED PARROTT, AM for South Wales Central, will be holding and advice surgery at Morrisons Supermarket, Penny Way, Barry, CF63 4BA between 1pm-2pm tomorrow (December 7). No appointment needed.

## IN BRIEF... FREE CONCERT

THERE will be a treat for classical music lovers at Bethel Baptist Church, Llantwit Major, on Tuesday, December 11 at 7.30pm.

Philip Tarlton, basset clarinet with the Penrhys String Quartet (all members of the Orchestra of Welsh National Opera) will perform Brahms' String Quartet in A minor, Op. 51 no. 2 and the Mozart Quintet in A, K.581.

All welcome. There will be no charge for this concert.

## Handmade crafts fair

Bea Roberts, director of Tidal Dream Creations, will be hosting the second edition of the Truly Handmade Christmas Craft fairs on December 15 in aid of Tenovus, in the Conservative Club, Penarth, from 11am-3pm.

Entry is free and parking is available.

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# KATHERINE JENKINS 'COMING HOME' TO HER PORTHCAWL CONNECTIONS



Katherine's great grandparents, Coun DM Parry Evans and Ellen Myra Morgan (singer).



Katherine Jenkins greeting her mother in The Grand Pavilion.



Katherine with author Keith E Morgan in front of The Grand Pavilion.



Katherine with the file that records her ancestral connections with Porthcawl.

Photos by KEITH E MORGAN and JAMES DAVIES

**COMING HOME** is a TV series made by Yellow Duck Media for BBC Wales.

The series has been running since 2007 and has a similar style to 'Who Do You Think You Are?', but in this case, featuring celebrities with a Welsh background.

On Friday, December 7 at 7.30pm, singer and national treasure Katherine Jenkins will take a highly emotional journey through the country, tracing her ancestry and learning of her great grandparents' connection with Porthcawl.

Katherine's great grandfather was DM Parry Evans, a dental surgeon with a practice in both Porthcawl and Neath (Katherine's home town).

Parry Evans was also a councillor and served on the Porthcawl Urban District Council for many years. He was chairman from 1923-1924, and was involved with the construction of both the new road bridge extension of the Eastern Promenade over the old Harbour in 1925-1926, and The Grand Pavilion in 1932.

Parry Evans lived with his wife Ellen Myra Morgan (also a singer), in a very secluded and private property in Nottage called 'The Elms'.

Filming in Porthcawl took place on October 12, when Katherine was conducted around Porthcawl on a very cold and windy day.

Starting at The Grand Pavilion, where her mother was waiting to greet her, Katherine was taken around the Coney Beach area by historian Professor Peter Stead. She returned to the Esplanade, where she was interviewed with author Keith E Morgan outside The Grand Pavilion.

Keith handed Katherine a signed copy of the book that he had published on the venue, and explained to her the connection that her great grandfather had with the building, and Porthcawl in general.

Later, Katherine was taken inside where the Kenfig Hill and District Male Voice Choir were waiting to give her a surprise greeting in song, in which she joined. While inside, Keith showed Katherine the commemorative plaque that recorded the construction of the building and which bore her great grandfather's name.

For more, tune in on BBC Wales at 7.30pm tomorrow (December 7).



ABOVE:  
Katherine with plaque that commemorates the opening of the Grand Pavilion in 1932, which bears her great grandfather's name.



LEFT:  
Choir musical director Philip Juliffe.



Katherine receiving a bouquet of flowers from choir chairman Harold Phillips.



Katherine with historian Professor Peter Stead on Eastern Promenade.



Katherine performs with the choir.

1919-1920	H. T. C. BEVAN
1920-1921	D. J. REES
1921-1922	M. L. GROVER
1922-1923	CHARLES BRAGG
1923-1924	D. M. PARRY EVANS
1924-1925	W. J. GRIFFIN
1925-1926	T. ELWOOD DEENE
1926-1927	J. E. DAVIES
1927-1928	D. J. REES

Record of chairmen of Porthcawl Urban District Council in the council chamber, which lists DM Parry Evans as chairman for 1923-1924.





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I'm willing to take a small bet that you've forgotten something. In fact, I'm willing to take a small bet that you haven't even thought about that something.

*That something is your trusty steed, the car that you're relying on to get you home for Christmas.*

Give your car a Christmas present and read our list of the top 10 things to check before you load it to the rafters and set off.

**Diesel glow plugs or petrol spark plugs:** In the warmer months of the year, glow plug problems are often not evident; but as soon as the temperature drops below freezing, diesel engines with malfunctioning glow plugs will be hard, if not almost impossible, to start.

Tell tail signs are irregular glow plug warning light activity and smoke on starting your diesel engine.

Wintertime temperature dips put a damper on your engine's performance and worn spark plugs

will cause sluggish starting and eventually a non-starter.

**Battery:** Car batteries struggle to develop as much power in the cold.

The only way to check what amps are being achieved is to get the battery checked using a modern battery analyser.

RAC and AA patrols carry the equipment needed and can rule the battery in and out in minutes.

Alternatively, get a reputable local garage with the equipment to run the test for you.

**Alternator:** Have your alternator checked to see what voltage is being produced; most cars should be achieving

14V to keep the battery fully charged.

In winter, a deficiency will soon become apparent because the battery usage tends to be higher.

**Bulbs and earthing points:** Ensure that all your bulbs are fully operational. Earthing point refurbishment is an excellent way to maintain the voltage level.

**Engine oil:** Old or incorrect engine oil will lead to increased engine wear over winter as it won't protect the engine until its warm and the worst wear occurs when the engine is cold.

(CONTINUED  
ON PAGE 24)

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# WINTER SERVICING

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## KEEP YOUR CAR IN TIP TOP CONDITION!

### LOOK AFTER YOUR CAR

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23)

Check your engine oil: if it's black and smells burnt, you probably need the oil changed; ask for quality brands like

Mobil or Castrol. Avoid any oil that is claiming to be made by the leading manufacturers but just rebadged. Cheap oil equals lots of problems down the

line. **Windscreens:** If you have a chip on your windscreen, get it sorted now. Call your insurance company – it's probably free. In winter, chips easily

become cracks. If the windscreen is frosted over, clear it with de-icer, not hot water. One day your luck will run out and it will crack.

When it snows, remove all the snow from the windscreen as when you turn the heaters on, if there is a small amount left below the wipers it could easily crack from the temperature difference. We saw it last winter.

**Automatic transmissions:** When the roads are all wintry, make sure you select the winter/snow mode on your box.

Sport mode will make the vehicle very difficult to handle on ice; you won't have your gears to slow the vehicle and hitting the brakes on ice can be lethal.

**Brakes:** It's fairly obvious that you need your brakes in tiptop condition.

Get them checked and keep your family safe.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 25)

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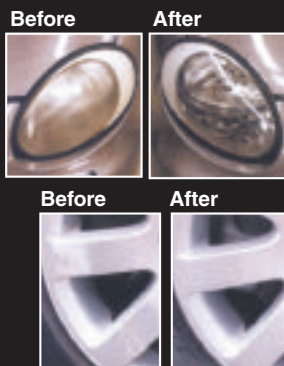
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### WINTER CHECKLIST

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24)

**Tyres:** Always check your tyre pressures before any journey.

Monitor your tyre condition; check the tread depths regularly.

Never be tempted to use part worn tyres; lives depend on those tyres maintaining grip.

**Emergency kit:** Carry an emergency kit with you; even if space is tight. It will help you stay comfortable in adverse and unexpected situations.

It should contain a

torch, fold-up safety triangle, spare wheel/puncture repair kit, blanket(s), water bottle, gloves, de-icer, petrol/diesel can, toilet roll and breakdown cover details.

Reading this may just mean that when you're "driving home for Christmas with a thousand memories", you won't be adding breaking down as one of them!

### Council make their plans for winter

**T**HE Vale of Glamorgan Council have been taking their own steps to ensure that the roads will be in the best condition possible in the event of cold weather over the next few months.

Their 'Big Fill' campaign has seen them fill potholes across the Vale (always a hot topic when the big freeze begins) while 4,800 tonnes of salt have been brought in to ensure they stay one step ahead of the icy roads.

**Salting routes and container locations can be found on the council's interactive postcode map online at: [valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/highways](http://valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/highways).**

For more information, call 01446 700111, or email: [visible@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:visible@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk).

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#### Last year, drivers struggled without winter tyres

- 54% of drivers said they felt less safe when driving in the winter.
- 45% of drivers said their biggest fear about driving in the winter was that they were more likely to have an accident as the roads felt more slippery.
- 1 in 3 drivers skidded on Britain's roads.
- 15% were involved in, or witnessed, an accident
- 12% only narrowly avoided a collision.
- 1 in 6 drivers had to abandon their journey.

#### Let's put a stop to accidents this winter

These stopping distances prove you're less likely to get in a scrape if you switch to winter tyres.

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# YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

## Choirs

**thanked**  
THE parish of Llansantffraid, Betws and Aberkenfig thanks choristers of Bois Goetre-Hen a'r Cylch (Coytrahen and District choir) and Llangewydd junior school choir for their recent performance in a concert at St John's church, Aberkenfig, which the choir did free of charge.

It raised £1,249 for parish funds.

Also thanks to Viv Thomas, Richard and David Rees, Tondur cricket club and Tesco's, Bridgend for providing snacks at the recent Horse Racing evening at the club. The final total raised at the evening's entertainment was £944.

## Charity concert

**OGMORE Valley male voice choir will be performing in a concert to raise money for the Bridgend stroke club today in the Evergreen Hall, Bridgend at 10.30am.**

Tomorrow evening (December 7) the choir will be singing in a concert at St Bride's church, Llansantffraid at 7pm, tickets £5 at the door.

**Carol service**  
LLANGEINOR Hunt will be holding its annual carol service at Saint Tyfodwg's church, Glynogwr this evening December 6 at 7.30pm - the service is being held earlier this year to prevent a clash in carol service dates.

The collection, as normal, will be donated to the hunt's charity of the year, which is to send a local girl to the USA for medical treatment.

## Male choir

**BRIDGEND male choir will be performing in**

the annual Friendship concert at St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Ewenny Road, Bridgend at 7pm on Friday, December 7.

Also appearing are the children of St Mary's RC school. Tickets will be available at the door.

The choir's final performance before Christmas is the Christmas service of remembrance at the C o y c h u r c h Crematorium, Bridgend, at 7pm on December 13.

**Joint concert**  
CŌR Meibion Cwm Garw (Garw Valley male choir) choristers and their families recently enjoyed a weekend in Ch i p p e n h a m, Wiltshire, where they met up with old friends of the Chippenhams Male Voice Choir.

This Wiltshire choir was established in 1940 to 'entertain the workers' in the very early years of World War Two and has continued without interruption since those dark days. They have been friends with CŌr Meibion Cwm Garw since first meeting at the Miners' Eisteddfod in Porthcawl in 2005 - this resulted in the first joint choral weekend in Wiltshire in February 2006.

The concert was a shared performance with the Chippenhams MVC in an evening entitled 'Music from the Welsh Valleys Meets Music from the Wiltshire Downs' and was staged in the Corsham High School Academy New Hall.

The concert-room was filled to capacity by an audience that showed its appreciation with a standing ovation for the final joint rendering of 'Morte Criste' (When I Survey the Wondrous Cross).

Following the concert, the members of Chippenhams MVC and their families arranged an 'oldywn' in the

Chippenham Football Club.

On Monday, December 10, the choir will be performing in a concert for members of the Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations.

Next Thursday, the choir will be leading the carol singing at Glanrhyd church, Angleton.

## Pen-y-fai WI

**THE recent meeting was opened by Jean Griffiths, president who welcomed the members to the meeting titled 'Crafts for Christmas.'**

The members were intrigued to find that the chairs were located around five different tables; each table was piled high with materials to make one form of decoration which could be made at that table.

Amongst the decorations the members were being encouraged to make were dried flower arrangements, patchwork, Christmas crackers, baubles made from sequins and ribbons and tree decorations using wool and lace. Angela Smith won the raffle.

Jean Griffiths advised members that the entry in the 90th birthday book for the Glamorgan Federation had been completed, and the book was being passed on to Aberkenfig and District WI.

There was a carol service at All Saint's church, Pen-y-fai for all the members of the link which consists of Aberkenfig and District, Laleston, Mynydd Cynffig and Pen-y-fai WI's last Monday evening.

Members of the WI had a weekend shopping trip away on December 1-2, including a tour of a German market in Birmingham, and shopping in the Christmas

## NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: **CLIVE MITCHELL**  
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ  
TEL: 01656 725399

email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



market in Ludlow.

## Schools

**ARCHBISHOP McGrath RC secondary school will be holding its Christmas concert in the school hall on December 12 at 7.15pm.**

Ogmore Valley primary school will be holding a Christmas concert performed by pupils in years 1 and 2 on December 13 and 14. Thursday's concert starts at 2pm, and Friday's at 10am. Tickets are allocated on the basis of two per family at £1 each person.

The pupils from years 3 to 6 will be visiting the Sherman Theatre, Cardiff next Thursday, December 13 to see the pantomime *Peter Pan*.

Tynrhool primary school, Llangenor, concerts will now be held on December 11 and 12, in the afternoons at 1.30pm. Parents and governors are welcome to the performances (more than two persons per family). Admission by £1 programme on sale at the door.

In memory of the recent passing away of the chair of governors, Mike Meredith, there will be a special assembly with a presentation of a memorial shield to a pupil at the school who is considered to be the best at creative writing.

Mike had been a journalist and had a background in literature, the shield will be presented annually. The assembly will be today at 10.15am

and all parents, governors and friends of the school are welcome.

## Festival

**NOTEWORTHY mixed voice choir from Maesteg will be performing in a concert at St Mary's church, Nolton, as part of the Christmas tree festival on Saturday, December 8.**

Bois Goetre-Hen a'r Cylch (Coytrahen and District choir) will be singing Christmas carols in the foyer of Sainsbury store on Saturday, December 8 between 11am and 1pm.

## Band recruits

**PENCOED silver band, formed over 100 years ago, is committed to encouraging youngsters to take an interest in playing a musical instrument, which it loans out to a youngster if required. The band will be joining with a group of young players in Pencoed junior school Christmas concert on Wednesday, December 12.**

It will also be playing at the community carol concert in Pencoed welfare hall on Friday, December 14 starting at 6.30pm.

## Community centre

**LAST Friday, I went to the Christmas concert staged by the Brackla community chorus at the centre, conducted by its musical director Gillian Ridout, accompanied by Gareth Waite.**

The concert started

with the audience in darkness and the members of the chorus with lighted candles singing 'Gaudette' the Christmas processional as they walked in single file from the rear of the hall onto the stage.

The lights were then switched on and they sang 'Jingle Bell Rock' and 'My Christmas' Tree.

This was followed by the stars of the evening the pupils of Archbishop McGrath RC secondary school with beautiful singing by girl soloists. The audience then sang the carol 'While shepherds watched their flocks by night' with the chorus then singing 'As long as there's Christmas' and 'Carol of the Bells.'

The school's jazz band then started playing 'ad lib' and had the audience clapping as each instrument came on stream. The school's musical director Mr Graham Price is to be congratulated.

The concert carried on with audience participation as it enjoyed the large variety of carols from the choir.

## Bridge Mentoring Service

**THE charity is opening a new family centre in 46-48 Dunraven Place, Bridgend, and is welcoming members of the public 6th December between 10.30am and 12.30pm to drop in and enjoy a cup of coffee and a mince pie, and see the work in progress.**



Star guitarist in the school jazz band.



Graham Price sorts the music.



Gillian Ridout and Graham Price MDs.

## Don't breed problems later - neuter now!

**LOCAL owners were urged this week by an animal welfare charity to neuter their pets as soon as possible, to help control the rising number of unwanted cats and kittens.**

Cats Protection's Bridgend Adoption Centre works hard to find good homes for every animal that comes into its care, but one of the charity's main aims is to encourage neutering of cats and kittens to ensure fewer unwanted felines in the future.

"Neutering offers many solid benefits to cats and owners alike," said the Bridgend centre's Sue Dobbs.

"A neutered cat is less likely to spray, less likely to roam and also less likely to fight. Neutering also helps guard against disease as

fighting cats are more at risk of life-threatening diseases that can be transmitted through biting and saliva."

The charity believes that population control for cats is very important as felines are prolific breeders.

"One un-neutered female cat could produce up to 18 kittens a year, or 20,000 descendants over five years."

"Owners who do not neuter their cats may unwittingly be contributing to more cats being abandoned in the future," Sue pointed out.

Cats Protection recommends that cats and kittens are neutered from four months.

Veterinary practices that neuter cats can be found at: cats.org.uk/what-we-do/neutering.

Cats Protection offer part-cost vouchers to members of the public who are in receipt of income-based benefits.

Cat owners on a limited income who need to have their pet neutered, can call the centre on 01656 724396 for details of how the charity can assist.

## WESTWARD HO FOR FLAGS AND BUNTING!

**ON November 18, there was plenty of activity at the Westward Community centre in Bridgend.**

Flags and balloons were out and food was carried in. A warm welcome was being prepared for the 11 tired but triumphant 'companions' plus one dog, from Gloucester Emmaus community, who had walked 40 miles from Cardiff Bay to Bridgend along the coast and camped out in the rain and cold along the way.

They were raising money for the Royal British Legion but why were they walking to Bridgend?

They wanted to support the local South Wales Emmaus group who are going to open an Emmaus community in Bridgend. Their sponsored walk for charity is just one example of the



Wellwishers greet the intrepid walkers.

Emmaus belief in helping others who are less fortunate.

These companions have been helped themselves but not by handouts. They have been offered the chance to live and work with the others in their community.

This gives them self-respect and they also take pride in being able

to give to others in different ways. Some of them take on challenges such as this walk and we are extremely grateful to and proud of them.

An Emmaus community will be an asset to the community where it is based. The 'companions' (the people who live in an Emmaus community) try to be a helpful part of the wider

community they live in. We hope they will make a real contribution to life in Bridgend.

On Monday, November 26, at the Westward community centre, from 3.30pm to 8pm, residents will be able to find out more. Emmaus South Wales Trustees, supporters and companions from other Emmaus communities

will be there to answer questions and listen to concerns.

If you missed this opportunity, please con-

tact info@emmaus-southwales.org.uk or phone 02920 486749.

**RUTH O'NEILL**

## COFFEE MORNING

**CORNELLY Horticultural Society is holding a Christmas coffee morning at the New House Inn, North Cornelly, on Thursday, December 13 from 10am-12 noon; mulled wine with mince pies and Christmas cake, craft stalls, hand-made presents, homemade cakes for sale, tombola, raffles. All proceeds will support 2013 Cornelly and District Horticultural Show.**



# Lifeguard club holds open day

**PORHCRAWL** Lifeguard Club are having an open day on Sunday, December 9 at our beautiful club house on Rhych Point, Porthcawl (the big yellow building).

After a fantastic season of competing against other surf life saving clubs around Wales and the UK, we are rounding off our year with an afternoon BBQ and an open invitation to everyone to come and take a look around our club house, meet members and chat about joining a friendly and well-established club.

It's not just about life saving, sea training or swimming, we offer a wide variety of avenues and training to individual members and families, from our Sunday morning cardio workouts during the winter to IRB boat crew training for those who don't wish to actual-

ly be in the water.

Our club meets every Friday evening at Pyle swimming pool for two sessions of nipper, junior and senior swim training (children must be aged seven or over and able to swim 100 metres unassisted) and during the spring and summer months we offer sea training on a Sunday morning and Tuesday evening. Members do not even have to participate in activities as we have qualified staff to teach CPR and other surf life saving techniques.

You could even simply join as a social member and enjoy our regular BBQs, camp outs and fundraising events.

However you look at it, we have something to offer everyone, so pop down at around 12 noon at Rhych Point, Porthcawl and join us for a cuppa.

DAVE DAVIES

## STUDENTS SHINE ON TANG SOO DO WEEKEND EVENT

ON Saturday, November 24, 20 students were granted Black Belt Ranks, 13 martial artists were promoted to 1st Dan black belt, four achieved the rank of 2nd Dan, and three students were awarded the rank of 4th Dan or Master in what was a very exciting weekend for the Traditional Tang Soo Do Federation.

The weekend started on Friday night with more than 32 students testing for Dan grades and above.

The testing continued on Saturday, which saw more than 420 students of all ages attending the local training hall in Pencoed Comprehensive School to demonstrate all their hard work and dedication by testing for the next grade in their

martial art journey.

In addition to students from classes all over Wales, two martial artists attended from San Diego, California for promotion to 4th Dan Master belt by our chief instructor, Master John Trudgill. One Master also attended from the Netherlands, along with two students also testing to 1st Dan on the Friday evening.

The Federation holds tests every two months, giving students the opportunity to continually strive to improve their techniques and knowledge of this martial art.

Tang Soo Do first became known as a

recognised martial art in Korea in 1945, and has spread around the globe with children and adults alike enjoying the combination of hard and soft flowing movements this art enjoys.

Tang Soo Do is a fantastic way to keep fit, make friends and enable you to continually strive for goals you may never have thought yourself capable of.

For information on class locations and a free month's trial, contact Master Wayne Humphries on: wayne.humphries1@gmail.com, or 07857 600641, or visit: www.tfuk.co.uk.

CK

## Football team setting up charity match

A FAMILY-RUN disabled football club in Bridgend that offers men and women the opportunity in playing competitive football around the UK is looking to hold a charity match at the end of April.

They want a team to be made up of rugby players, footballers and presenters to play to raise money to send the team to Spain in May to play in the Catalan Cup and then the Belgium International in Ghent on June 1.

Bridgend DFC currently play in the Three Counties League in Worcester and disabled competitions all over the

UK, as well as local friendlies against mainstream teams.

Manager Kelly Hall said: "A charity football match would help raise money towards our target of £3,500 so I can take my team to these events and promote disabled football in Wales. With the help of these stars our dream could be possible."

If there are any sportsmen and women, and TV or radio presenters out there who would like to make up a charity team, contact 07880 749903, or: bridgenddfc@hotmail.co.uk – you can help a dream come true.

KELLY HALL

## MULES TOO STRONG FOR PONTYCLUN

THIS friendly encounter away against Pontyclun produced a competent display from the Kenfig Hill under-15s, as the young Mules ran out 43-12 winners.

Both sides had to play with only 14 players due to Pontyclun having insufficient numbers, which contributed to a stuttering but open game of rugby.

Almost straight from the kick-off, Kenfig Hill fly half Liam Evans capitalised on a handling error in the Pontyclun back line to start and finish a kick chase from 60 metres. The fly half then converted his own try.

This was the start of what turned into a one sided half with Mules' centre Sam Young scoring next, evading two tacklers before sprinting 40 metres to score under the posts. Young scored another two tries, all successfully converted, to bring about a shortened first half with Kenfig leading 28-0 at half-time.

Whatever the team talk the Pontyclun coach gave during the break had the desired effect with the team coming out much stronger in the second half.

A mixture of last gasp tap tackles and final pass knock-on's were all that stopped Pontyclun from breaking their duck in the opening period of the second half.

It was, however, Kenfig who opened the scoring again following a passage of play where open-side flanker Josh Dixon featured heavily, the ball finally making

its way to Young once again out wide where he put in a huge hand off on his opposite number allowing him to score in the corner.

With the game now opening up and possession see sawing backwards and forwards, Pontyclun finally got off the mark with a try out wide following a move which left them with a two on one overlap.

Again, Kenfig came back with wing Tom Cross putting in a strong 20-metre run just being pulled down short of the try line, and from the back of the ensuing ruck Young once again picked up the ball and touched down from close range.

A battling Pontyclun scored once more, this time under the posts, meaning they added a further seven points, which was no more than they deserved in this spirited second half performance.

It was left, however, to Kenfig to have the final say with the last move of the match that saw full back Seb Floyd run on the inside shoulder of the defending back line before being brought down, but still managed to deliver a perfect pass off the floor to the supporting Liam Evans for the Mules' fly half to score his second and Kenfig's seventh try.

Special mention must go to Sam Young with an extraordinary tally of five tries in total, but as always a lot of the unseen work went on in the forwards and both No8 Nathan Jones and prop Steffan Moody were outstanding in their tackling.

JC

## Bridge results

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent evenings are:

Wednesday, November 28: first – John Henson and Geoff Tinkler; second – Dave Barwood and Jane Brook; third – Marjorie Morris and Bill Turner.

Friday, November 30: first – Celia and Huw Thomas; second – John Henson and Terry Dolan; third – Jane Brook and Wendy Williams.

In addition to the regular club nights on Wednesday and Friday evenings at 7pm at Nolton Church Hall

there are lessons on Fridays, also at Nolton Church Hall with Graham Jones.

All welcome to register an interest, call Graham Jones on 01446 775952, Steve Burgoyne on 01656 6661968 or David Newman on 01656 646789.

There are also lessons on Thursdays at Nolton Church Hall for beginners and those who want to improve their bridge and card play. They are run by John and Christine Evans – for more information call John on 01656 880372.

DN

## Bridgend Chess

BRIDGEND Chess Club's A team scored a fine win over Cardiff Dragons.

On board one, C Howell held K Thompson to a draw while on board two, M Cleaves had a fine win against M Ayllon.

On board three, N Stuart won against P Keenan, but R Rees on board four could only manage a draw against G Jones.

Unfortunately for Cardiff Dragons, their fifth player failed to turn up, giving Bridgend a one point start, resulting in a 4-1 win for Bridgend.

MK

## Ryan edging closer to his dream of being a professional footballer

BRIDGEND-born footballer Ryan Batley is very close to realising his dream of becoming a professional footballer after making the final 22 of a nationwide football talent search – impressing the scouts of the clubs he's trying to sign for.

Ryan (21), who plays for Llanelli AFC in the Welsh Premier League, is closing in on a professional contract with either Football League One sides Swindon Town or Leyton Orient after entering electronics giant Samsung's 'Win A Pro Contract', along with more than 5,000 other hopefuls.

The former Swansea City Academy player, of Pen-Y-Bryn, Bridgend impressed Swindon and Leyton Orient scouts at his quarter-final trial – an 11-a-side match held at Staines Town FC on Sunday, November 18.

He said: "I was over the moon when I found out I'd made it through to the next trial. I thought I played well in the quarter-final but couldn't be sure I'd done enough."

"The standard of players on show was



Ryan Batley impressed with his skills, fitness and attitude to get this far in the competition.

very good. I was on a talented team but I think I stood out with my positioning and communication."

"I can't wait for the next trial. There will be a lot of pressure but I'm going to give it my all."

"To play football professionally would mean everything to me, it's what I've always dreamed of. I think I'm definitely good enough to go all the way and win a contract."

Swindon scout Lee Adam was impressed with what he saw, saying: "It was important for us to see Ryan play an 11-a-side match. He

had a good game and stood out with his skills, fitness and attitude on the pitch."

"The final 22 players are all very talented. It's up to them to prove they deserve a professional contract and a chance in the Football League."

The next stage sees Ryan play in front of Swindon manager Paolo Di Canio, a former Lazio and West Ham United star, and Orient boss Russell Slade at Swindon Town's County Ground on Sunday, December 16, kick-off 1pm. The 22 players are battling it out to be among 11 players selected for the final against a Leyton Orient XI at the Matchroom Stadium in January.

Di Canio and Slade will then invite a select group of players to train with their respective first-team squads. The managers will pick one player each and offer them a year-long professional playing contract.

Italian Di Canio said: "The players have done well to make it this far in the competition. There is a lot of pressure involved. Now they have a chance to show me their quality and the right attitude on the pitch. It is a big opportunity for all of them."

## JORDAN SHINES IN PARIS TOURNAMENT



Jordan Williams (right) with the Warriors team.

JORDAN WILLIAMS (15), recently took part in the ICO World Cup Kickboxing competition in Paris.

His category was under 65kg for competitors aged under-17. Jordan won the silver medal in continuous fighting.

During the course of the two-day competition, Jordan fought a 3rd Dan black belt, a 2nd Dan black belt and a normal black belt. The French competitor that won the gold for this continuous category went on to win another gold in the full

contact category, and this means that Jordan is now ranked second in the world in his category.

This was an amazing opportunity for Jordan and a fantastic accomplishment for him, as has only been kickboxing for nine months with no prior experience of martial arts.

Jordan is a member of the Bridgend Scorpions and trains five-six days a week.

The cost of taking part in the competition was funded by his parents and Jordan was able to undertake a fundraising event at his school, Porthcawl Comprehensive, to try

and raise funds by himself.

Jordan's school also donated some money to his fundraising pot, which we were really grateful for. Madeleine Moon MP has also been very supportive and has pledged some money to be donated from BCBC.

We are always looking for a sponsor to help Jordan move forward and next year become world champion; if any organisation would like to sponsor Jordan, email: ziggyfor2010@sky.com.

EW

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Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice.

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## Family Notices

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**Marilyn Elaine (nee Shore)**

Peacefully at home on 17th November aged 64. Beloved wife of Ralph, adored mother of Ingrid and John, loved grandma of Seren and Robin. Precious memories of Marilyn held by mother Lilian and brothers Graham and Andrew, sister-in-law Polly, son-in-law Philip and nephews and nieces Anna, Robert, Tom and Georgina.

Funeral arrangements to be given at a later date.

**NORTHCOTT**

**Elaine (of Llantwit Major)**

Passed away peacefully on 27th November, 2012 with her family around her.

Dearly loved wife of the late Charlie, a wonderful Mum, cherished Nan and Nan-Nan. Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Monday 10th December, 2012 at 11.00am. Family flowers only please. Donations to Diabetic Research Unit, Llandough Hospital. Elaine will be very sadly missed by family and friends.

**FLOWER**

**Brian Stewart**

Died suddenly and peacefully on November 28th 2012 aged 80. Much loved husband of Sue, loving father of Russell and Julia and grandfather of Georgina, Ben, Olivia, Toby, Christopher and Kate. Greatly missed by all who knew him.

A thanksgiving service will be held at Llanblethian Church on Friday December 7th at 2.30pm. No black attire and no flowers please but donations if desired to Age Concern Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan c/o J. James, 11 Fonnion Road, Rhosce, CF62 3DZ.

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(12 December 2012)

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## Public Notices

**NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER**

**SECTION 119 HIGHWAYS ACT 1980**

**THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL**

**(PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY NO 32 WELSH ST DONATS)**

**DIVERSION ORDER 2011**

On the 11th day of September 2012 an Inspector appointed by the Welsh Ministers confirmed, with modifications, the above Order made under section 119 of the Highways Act 1980.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to divert part of the public bridleway as set out in the Schedule and shown in the Order map.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and the Order map have been placed and may be seen at the address below free of charge between 9.00am and 4.00pm on weekdays from 6th December 2012 until 17th January 2013. Copies of the Order and map may be bought here at a price of £4.50.

The Order comes into force on the 6th day of December 2012, but if any person aggrieved by the Order desires to question its validity or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of that Act or any regulation made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he/she may, under paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the 6th day of December 2012 make an application to the High Court.

Dated this 6th day of December 2012

**Director of Development Services**

Decks Offices, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT



## THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

### Development that may affect a Conservation Area / Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No./  
Rhif y cais: 2012/01186/FUL  
Proposal/Cynnig: Extension of existing wall at access, with a stone  
faced low wall with stone piers at approx. 2m centres  
and a close boarded timber infill fence  
Location:/Lleoliad: Tudor Lodge, Bonvilston, Cardiff  
Conservation Area:/  
Ardal Gadwraeth: Affecting the Bonvilston

### Conservation Area Consent / Caniatâd Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No./  
Rhif y cais: 2012/01229/CAC  
Proposal/Cynnig: Demolition of Building  
Location:/Lleoliad: Normandy, Bridgeman Road, Penarth  
Conservation Area:/  
Ardal Gadwraeth: Penarth

### Listed Building Consent / Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No./  
Rhif y cais: 2012/01216/LBC  
Proposal/Cynnig: Rebuilding collapsed listed historic garden wall  
Location:/Lleoliad: Cwrt Yr Ala House, Michaelston Le Pit  
Listed Building/  
Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II

Application No./  
Rhif y cais: 2012/01228/LBC  
Proposal/Cynnig: Proposed conversion of outbuildings / barn to form  
annex to existing dwelling  
Location:/Lleoliad: Rawley Court, Turkey Street, Llantwit Major  
Listed Building/  
Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II

Application No./  
Rhif y cais: 2012/01235/LBC  
Proposal/Cynnig: Small, single storey rear extension to Arboreal  
Restaurant  
Location:/Lleoliad: 68, Eastgate, Cowbridge  
Listed Building/  
Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II

Application No./  
Rhif y cais: 2012/01243/LBC  
Proposal/Cynnig: Erect a signboard to the outside of the building  
Location:/Lleoliad: Unit 6, Old Hall, Cowbridge  
Listed Building/  
Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II

### Affecting setting of a Listed Building/ Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar lleoliad Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No./  
Rhif y cais: 2012/01227/FUL  
Proposal/Cynnig: Proposed conversion of outbuildings / barn to form  
annex to existing dwelling  
Location:/Lleoliad: Rawley Court, Turkey Street, Llantwit Major  
Listed Building/  
Adeilad Rhestredig: Affecting Rawley Court, Grade II

### Application(s) of General Interest / Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No./  
Rhif y cais: 2012/01224/FUL  
Proposal/Cynnig: Construction of a solar park to include the installation  
of solar panels to generate up to 7.5MW of electricity  
with transformer housings. Security fencing and cam-  
eras, landscaping and other associated works  
Location:/Lleoliad: Land at the Garn, St. Hilary

Application No./  
Rhif y cais: 2012/01241/FUL  
Proposal/Cynnig: Three commercial units with self contained parking.  
One commercial unit to be used as office and vehicle  
maintenance centre for A2B Taxis, mezzanine floor  
option to A2B Taxi unit  
Location:/Lleoliad: 3A, Atlantic Trading Estate, Barry

### May affect a Public Right of Way / Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No./  
Rhif y cais: 2012/01224/FUL  
Proposal/Cynnig: Construction of a solar park to include the installation  
of solar panels to generate up to 7.5MW of electricity  
with transformer housings. Security fencing and cam-  
eras, landscaping and other associated works  
Location:/Lleoliad: Land at the Garn, St. Hilary

Application No./  
Rhif y cais: 2012/01227/FUL  
Proposal/Cynnig: Proposed conversion of outbuildings / barn to form  
annex to existing dwelling  
Location:/Lleoliad: Rawley Court, Turkey Street, Llantwit Major

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or  
via <http://vagonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir  
isod, neu drwy <http://vagonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Dated / Dyddiedig: 6 December, 2012

M. Goldsworthy, Operational Manager Development & Building Control,  
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

## NEWS FROM YSGOL GYFUN BRO MORGANNWG School joins with local primary pupils to help Children in Need



Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg  
pupils meet Pudsey Bear.

**Ice hockey international**  
MANY congratulations to Lewis Davies, year-8, on being selected for the England under-14s ice hockey team. He is the only representative from Wales currently on the team.

**A visit to Berlin**  
DURING the half term holiday, a group of pupils studying German and history A-level visited the German capital, Berlin.

Four enjoyable days were spent wandering around the sights of this exceptional city and visiting very interesting museums which were relevant to the pupils' A-level courses.

It was a memorable visit and everyone is very eager to return to this magnificent city at the heart of Europe.

### Children in Need

MANY congratulations to staff and pupils at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg and Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg for raising £1,165.29 for Children in Need 2012.

Pupils and staff at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg came to school in fancy dress costumes and sold cakes during break and lunch time.

The school kitchen staff raised £73 by dressing up and collecting donations of spare change from visitors, staff and pupils.

Staff and pupils at Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg collected £65 by wearing their pyjamas to school. There was even a surprise visit from Pudsey Bear!!

### DNA

**workshop**  
DURING November, the 10 year-13 pupils studying biology A-level visited Techniquet for a practical workshop and 'hands on' science lesson.

A pupil reports: "We learnt about DNA and its structure. During a practical session, we isolated the



Lewis Davies of year-8. DNA present in the mitochondria of our cheek cells.

"After isolating the DNA, we learnt how to do electrophoresis. The whole experience really brought the curriculum to life.

"Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day, and the information we learnt will prove very useful for the forthcoming exam."

### Gymnastic Champions

MANY congratulations to all four of the Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg teams on their success in the county novices gymnastic competition.

Both the year-7 girls and boys teams won their competitions. The year-8 and 9 boys team was also victorious, with the year-8 and 9 girls in a very respectable third place.

The teams will continue to train hard as they prepare to represent the school and the Cardiff and Vale county in the national round of the competition. We wish them all the very best.

## Cowbridge RFC back in action

**With the autumn international-als out of the way, it's back to the serious stuff of Division 4 South East.**

This Saturday, 10th-placed Cowbridge visit ninth-placed Llandaff North – an important game for both teams. The last round of games saw Llandaff North narrowly defeat Barry, while Cowbridge lost a hard-fought game to Abercwmboi, and they will be looking for a positive result to move towards mid-table by Christmas.

The final game of the year is one of the most eagerly anticipated for some time – Llantwit Major at home on December 22. Llantwit lie in eighth

place at the moment, so the next few weeks are extremely important for all three teams.

There is bound to be a big crowd so make sure you get to the club early to take advantage of the hospitality and enjoy what is guaranteed to be a hard-fought and exciting game.

Finally everyone at the club was saddened to learn of the passing away recently of Dai Bond. Dai was a stalwart of the firsts and seconds during the late 1960s and 70s, covering the front row and second row.

Apart from his rugby prowess, Dai will always be remembered for his good nature and ready smile and will be missed by all who knew him – our thoughts are with his family. **RV/RK**

## Maulers feel the Force!

**LLANTWIT MAJOR Mini Maulers found themselves in the unfamiliar surroundings of Force Strength and Conditioning to say a big thank you to Force for their sponsorship of their new hoodies.**

Many of the Maulers had a go on some of the equipment at the south Wales training facility, including the dreaded prowler push and the sledgehammer slam, before meeting Force director and former Celtic Warriors and Swansea hooker Andy Joy, who was presented with his own Mauler hoodie by Mauler coach Rob Bilney.

Andy said that Force were delighted to offer support to the Mini Maulers and that it was a pleasure to meet so many of them. Major Mini Maulers provides rugby fun and learning for children aged two to six years old, and is a major development at Llantwit Major RFC mini and junior section.

The Mini Maulers train on Sunday mornings. For session times and more information, con-

tact Tim Jones, Maulers co-ordinator, at [trocar-tim@btinternet.com](mailto:trocar-tim@btinternet.com) or on 07876 567509. **TJ**

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Festive themes**  
ALL Saints Church in Victoria Square, Penarth's breakfast club for younger families on Saturday, December 8, at 9am will have a seasonal theme.

On Saturday, December 15, at 4pm there's a concert featuring young people from the church to raise funds for the next youth visit to Lesotho – entry only £1 with refreshments available.

'Messy Christmas' is on Sunday, December 16 at 4pm – craft activities, worship and a cooked tea for all the family. That evening, the Cardiff Ardwyng Singers and Symphonic Brass will be performing Carols by Candlelight beginning at 7.30 pm – entry £5 (under 16s free).

For more information visit [www.penarth-all-saints.org](http://www.penarth-all-saints.org).

**Churches celebrate**  
TWO Barry churches join this weekend to mark the 350th anniversary of the 'Book of Common Prayer'.

At the church of St Paul, an exhibition this Saturday and Sunday (December 8-9) tells the story of the creation of the Prayer Book in 1662, and on Sunday morning, there are special services at both St Paul's and Merthyr Dyfan churches.

Everyone visiting the exhibition or attending the Sunday morning services will receive a free copy of the 350th year souvenir book, published by the Prayer Book Society at £3.50. The morning service at Merthyr Dyfan Church is at 8.45am. At St Paul's Church, the special service of Solemn Mass from the Book of Common Prayer is at 10am.

## Vale riders fight to the finish

**TOM David and Connor Flint, who both hail from the Vale, fought out the finish of the open maiden race at the Black Forest Club Point-To-Point meeting at Black Forest Lodge**

**last Sunday.**

Tom riding Mr D Constable's *Joe The Trucker*, won by half-a-length from *Billy Congo*, who is owned and trained by his young rider.

Earlier, Flint had finished runner-up in the novice riders race

on *Oakfield Legend* who had finished three lengths behind *Timeshift*.

Top Welsh point-to-pointer *Findlay's Find* failed to make the frame in the mixed open race, won by *Divine Intavention*.

**BRIAN LEE**



# 36th Welsh Schools Inter Schools cross-country championships Penlan, Brecon

## WELL DONE to the 40 Vale pupils who competed in the 36th Welsh Schools Inter Schools cross-country championships.

Held on a glorious sunny but cold afternoon at Brecon's Penlan Arena, the event saw girls from two Vale schools returning home with medals.

Although the afternoon was dry, heavy rain during the days leading up to the event resulted in some boggy and muddy sections to the course, making it a true test of both strength and stamina.

In the third race of the afternoon, the under-16 girls' section for pupils in years 9 and 10, Cowbridge were defending the title that they had won at last year's competition. Despite fielding a team weakened by the absence of year-10 Nadine James, the girls rose to the challenge magnificently.

As ever, it was year-9 Seren Allin who spearheaded the team effort. Very much at home among the familiar year-9 pupils who dominated this race, Seren can feel satisfied with an encouraging run which saw her finish third behind Cari Hughes (Syr Tomas Jones, Amlwch) and Jessica Bradley (Tasker Milward).

Second home for Cowbridge was Cerys Bradshaw, who has been running strongly all term. Cerys finished 12th with another much improved runner, Millie Green, taking 23rd spot. Two year-10 pupils – Ela Emyr and Rebecca Thomas – battled it out to be fourth and final scorer, with Ela (30th) just getting the better of Rebecca (34th).

The Cowbridge total of 68 points was good enough to hold off the challenge from Tasker Milward (Haverfordwest) to retain the title for a sec-

ond year.

It also means that, since 2000, Cowbridge pupils have only failed in one year – 2009 – to take a team title at this event. Boys' teams won from 2000 to 2007, and the girls in 2008 and from 2010. What a record!

There was more good news two races later – the senior girls event for pupils in years 11 to 14 – and it highlights the amazing journey that Ellie Atkinson has experienced in just 12 months. Last year, as a year-10 pupil, she competed in the under-16 race and finished a creditable sixth.

After that, her progress over the other four months of the winter was astonishing, ending with her finishing as the leading Welsh Schools girl both in the under-17 race at the SIAB Schools cross-country international at Strathallan, Perth, in March and heading the association's under-15 team at the Virgin Money Giving Mini London Marathon.

This term, she has already chalked up a string of victories in Cardiff & the Vale of Glamorgan Schools Leagues, at the South Wales Regional Schools championships and at Gwent Leagues – but, at this event, she faced her greatest challenge – from year-11 Olivia Gwynn (Bishopston), many times a Welsh Schools champion, including at Brecon last March where she was the winner of the Middle Girls' (years 10 and 11), finishing ahead of Ellie.

It was Olivia who took the initiative from the start but Ellie is older and wiser now. Gradually she reeled Olivia back. They ran together for a while and then Ellie was away, easing to a 22-second victory – and claiming the first of, hopefully, many titles.

Her success also



Year-13 Matthew Edwards finished seventh in the senior boys' race.

ALL PICTURES BY IAN DIXON.

underlines that you do not have to be winning things from a very young age to be successful at under-17 and older competitions.

Behind Ellie, her year-11 schoolmate Erin Hayes had a steady run to finish 16th, while two places further back, the ever reliable Fiona Bray (year-13) was the first finisher for the Cowbridge squad. With good support from Nikita John (year-13, 26th) and the year-11 duo of Izzy Eddy Williams (30th) and international high jumper Annabel Curle (32nd), who finished close behind Stanwell year-11 Kate Coker, the Cowbridge score of 106 placed the team second to defending titleholders Olchfa (Swansea).

This fixture – the first of four 'Welsh' championships over the season – helps give pupils an appreciation of where they are in their winter programme.

Looking at the other Vale pupils competing, on face value the seventh place finish of Matthew Edwards (Barry Comprehensive) in a quality-loaded front end of the senior boys' race might not look good for such a talented year-13 pupil – but if he is putting the miles in now, and studying hard, then perhaps it's not such a

bad result.

The same can be said of year-11 Dafydd George (29th). If the Bro Morgannwg pupil has aspirations of gaining a second Welsh Schools vest next March – as he did in 2010 – then he needs to be training hard now.

The two pupils who can feel satisfied – but not pleased – by their performances are the Stanwell year-12 duo of Ieuan Jones (21st) and Elliot Richards.

Both of them will be needed for the Cardiff & the Vale of Glamorgan Schools sixth form team at the Cardiff Cross Challenge on Sunday, January 20, 2013, when they will compete over a much longer course – 6,990 metres.

Sadly, this year there was only two other Vale teams in action.

Stanwell fielded an under-14 (years 7 and 8) boys' team. It was the biggest field of the day, with more than 130 starters. Year-8 pupils Rhys Jones (13th) and Antonio Peacock (22nd) had encouraging runs but, with third and fourth scorers James Dawson and Stanley Murphy-Johns finishing 6th and 78th respectively, the squad's total of 181 points placed them fifth behind Llanishen (124), Monmouth School



First Vale finisher in the under-14 girls' race, Llantwit year-7 Alisha Hayes.

(127), Cardiff High (149) and the Lewis School (161).

There was another encouragingly large field – 125 finishers – in the opening race, the under-14 girls' section. Two year-7 pupils headed the Vale challenge on the day.

Alisha Hayes (Llantwit), younger sister of Erin, and Taiya Jones (Stanwell), both of whom have shown promise in the Cardiff & the Vale Schools year-7 races, finished 21st and 27th respectively, while the year-8 contingent was headed by Hannah Jones (Llantwit, 33rd) and Sanat Emyr (Cowbridge, 35th).

With year-7 Jessica Wadey not competing, Sanat was the first scorer for the Cowbridge squad, with the other scorers being Meriel Clode (52nd), Emily Jenkins (59th) and Selina Radcliffe (69th). The four-girl total of 215 placed them seventh.

Brother and sister Samuelle (year-8) and Ysabelle (year-9) Williams, represented Penarth's Westbourne School at this event, and both will have gained valuable experience. Samuelle finished 26th in the under-14 race, with Ysabelle was 27th in the under-16 girls' race.

John Wardle was the only other Barry Comprehensive pupil to run. The year-10 finished a creditable 25th in the under-16 race.

The date for next year's event has been set – Saturday, November 16 – and it would be good to see even more Vale pupils and teams taking part.

**Results of Vale pupils:** Senior Boys – u20 – Years 11 to 14 – 5300 metres – 64 finishers

7 Matthew Edwards (Barry CS) 17:38; 21 Ieuan Jones (Stan) 18:59; 29 Dafydd George (Bro M) 20:21; 35 Elliot Richards (Stan) 20:53

No teams  
U16 Boys – Years 9 & 10 – 4100 metres – 76 finishers

25 John Wardle

(Barry CS) 15:02; 55 Matthew Dawson (Stan) 16:26; 57 Alex Langrish (Stan) 16:32

No teams

U14 Boys – Years 7 & 8 – 2800 metres – 130 finishers

13 Rhys Jones (Stan) 10:18; 22 Antonio Peacock (Stan) 10:35; 26 Samuelle Williams (West) 10:40; 52 Sam Cokill (Cow) 11:12; 76 Tom Wright (Cow) 11:36; 77 Stanley Murphy-Johns (Stan) 11:37; 94 Joseph Donovan (Stan) 12:00; 95 Lewis Donovan (Stan) 12:01; 97 Dan Pembleton Llanishen 12:06

Teams  
5 Stanwell 181  
Senior Girls – u20 – Years 11 to 14 – 4100 metres – 42 finishers

1 Ellie Atkinson Llantwit 14:30; 16 Erin Hayes Llantwit 16:41; 18 Fiona Bray (Cow) 17:02; 26 Nikita John (Cow) 18:31; 28 Kate Coker (Stan) 19:17; 30 Izzy Eddy-Williams (Cow) 19:25; 32 Annabel Curle (Cow) 19:35

Teams  
2 Cowbridge 106  
U16 Girls – Years 9 & 10 – 3600 metres – 55 finishers

3 Seren Allin (Cow) 12:57; 12 Cerys Bradshaw (Cow) 13:40; 23 Millie Green (Cow) 14:42; 27 Ysabelle Williams (West) 15:18; 30 Ela Emyr (Cow) 15:36; 34 Rebecca Thomas (Cow) 15:53

Teams  
1 Cowbridge 68  
U14 Girls – Years 7 & 8 – 2800 metres – 125 finishers

21 Alisha Hayes Llantwit 11:36; 27 Taiya Jones (Stan) 11:46; 33 Hannah Jones Llantwit 12:07; 35 Sanat Emyr (Cow) 12:10; 52 Meriel Clode (Cow) 12:34; 59 Emily Jenkins (Cow) 12:49; 69 Selina Radcliffe (Cow) 13:06; 73 Rachel Anstey (Cow) 13:11; 78 Amee Jones (Cow) 13:25; 83 Jordan Meek (Cow) 13:43; 95 Connie Sharp (Stan) 14:27

Teams  
7 Cowbridge 215

Next Saturday, December 8, the south



Ellie Atkinson (Llantwit, 25) battles it out with Olivia Gwynn (Bishopston, 163) on her way to her first Welsh Schools cross-country title.

Wales region will be fielding teams from under-13 to senior and master age groups at the 14th Welsh Inter Regional cross-country championship to be held at Builth Wells in Powys.

This week, schools will also be receiving details of the more than 200 pupils who will be

invited to compete for Cardiff & the Vale of Glamorgan Schools at year-7, junior (years 8 and 9), middle (years 10 and 11) and senior (sixth form) at Cardiff Cross Challenge, which will be held at Blackweir Fields in Cardiff on Sunday, January 20, 2013.

PETER MORRIS

## Cowbridge under-14s are just pipped

**IN fine conditions, Cowbridge under-14s and Rumney played open and attractive rugby from the start.**

Rumney and Cowbridge are old rivals and matches between the sides are always close, and this game was no different.

Within a minute of the kick-off, Rumney had opened the scoring when an attempted clearance to touch by Cowbridge was charged down, resulting in a try under the posts which was converted.

Minutes later the home side found themselves 12 points down as the visitors scored again. After this initial onslaught Cowbridge began to settle down and their pack began to provide good possession for their backs, who looked far more dangerous than their counterparts, and it came as no surprise when Cowbridge scored.

Prop Josh Evans secured good ball and burst through the opponents' line out to set up a ruck. Flanker Duncan Ace was influential in securing possession and providing quick ball to scrum half Osian John.

The ball then went through five pairs of hands before it was passed to wing Seán

Davies, who outpaced his opposite number to score in the corner.

A second try soon followed when centre Rhys Beynon kicked ahead in midfield and then cleverly gathered the ball on the bounce to score.

Both tries were unconverted to leave Cowbridge two points adrift at half-time.

The first 10 minutes of the second half resulted in a stalemate between the sides with good tackling by Owain Jenkins, Harry Hopkins and Tomos Evans-Williams preventing the Cardiff side from creating any scoring opportunities.

Midway through the half, Rumney finally breached the Cowbridge defence to score a third unconverted try.

Cowbridge threw everything into attack during the last session and with minutes remaining, centre Dan Bunney received the ball in his own 22 and burst through a number of tackles to run 40 yards before offloading to full back Sam Palmer to score in the corner.

Outside half Cai Evans took the conversion to try to level the scores but the ball agonisingly hit the post to leave Rumney winners, 17-15.

ML

## COWBRIDGE UNDER-10s PULL OUT DOUBLE DUTY

**COWBRIDGE RFC under-10s fielded two strong sides to take on Rumney in what turned out to be two fierce contests.**

Right from the starting whistle of the first game, Rumney took no prisoners, dominating up front with strong and disciplined rucking play.

However, with committed hard work from the Cowbridge forwards, together with some crunching tackling from the backs, Cowbridge were able to start creating opportunities to fight back. A startling interception try from James Davies opened the scoring, although Rumney fought back with several good phases to equalise.

A second equally inspirational interception try by James Davies took Cowbridge ahead again,

although Rumney again responded with a stream of solid attacking play.

Despite continuously strong defensive play, the weight of possession eventually went the opposition's way and a final Rumney try resulted in a 14-14 draw.

The second game saw a change of tactics by Cowbridge with the ball being passed freely among team members to break the Rumney defence and avoid their dominating forwards.

Strength and determination was displayed by Jay Downes before a clever pass to speed merchant Joe Marshman set up an exciting first try for the green and blacks.

James Gilvea delivered a second try after good supportive play along the backs, and a third try came after Tom Pugh cut through the opposition defence with a one-man crash ball drive that ended with him touching the

ball down over the line to great cheers from the crowd.

Instinctive play from Joe Marshman and quick hands along the whole team resulted in a second try for James Gilvea.

Rumney fought back hard but several more phases of quick hands and on-the-shoulder support delivered a fifth try for Jay Downes just before the final whistle, for a final score of 31-28 to Cowbridge.

**Game 1 team:** Aled Leitch, Charlie Locke, Lloyd Bennett, Rhys Williams, Iwan Bartle-Thomas, Jake Williams, Jack Reilly, Harry Whittaker, Ioan Davies and James Davies.

**Game 2 team:** James Gilvea, Matthew Gilvea, Jay Downes, Joe Marshman, Harry Crane, Elisedd Greenwood, Robbie Hawkins, Ellis Howell, Harri Howkins, Tom Pugh.

WL



# COWBRIDGE TENNIS CLUB HOLDS ANNUAL DINNER



Ian Duggan and Harry Mehta.



ABOVE: Gill Ridout and Alison Kurobasa with Ian Duggan.



Jo Davies



Louise Hailstone

On Friday, November 9, the first Cowbridge Tennis Club annual dinner was held at the Bear Hotel.

Over 60 members, with family and friends, gathered in the beautiful upstairs ballroom for a buffet dinner, live music and dancing until late.

There was also an awards ceremony recognising different members of the club for their achievements throughout the year. The presentation was made by the club's chairman, Henry Mehta.

A game and a raffle with prizes, which ranged from Cardiff City football tickets to tennis lessons and tennis videos to hampers, raised over £100 for the club. All the prizes were donated by members and their families. The buffet was



Mike Harpin.

inspired by world cuisine and included a mix of warm and cold British, Chinese and Indian style bites, all freshly made and tasting so good that it was hard to resist going back for seconds!

The event was organised by Colin Rees, first team captain and junior co-ordinator and it was a success. We hope there will be more to follow in the years to come.

AM



ABOVE: Tom Morgan.

## It's a family affair for Vale Karate this year



Two families of four, all of whom train with Rob Copeland at Vale Karate had much to celebrate after competing at the Western Karate Union's Winter Invitational in Weston-Super-Mare last weekend.

Medals were won by two of the O'Donovan family and three of the Christoforatos!

Rory O'Donovan (47) after four years dedicated training, earned his Black Belt last year.

Ready for another challenge, he began entering the Welsh Karate League's Veteran Kumite event, where he has been extremely successful, ranked number one after winning the last five events!

Youngest son, seven-year-old Finnian has been even more successful, leading the rankings in the under-8s having won six of this season's seven events to date!

In Weston they faced new opponents, but the experience garnered in

the league, which offers competitions on an almost monthly basis, has certainly paid dividends as both Rory and Finnian again earned gold medals in their respective categories.

The Christoforatos are no strangers to Karate success. Brad, 15, and twelve-year-old Kloe have been among Wales' and indeed Britain's most successful young karate champions for several years with a host of titles to their names.

Kloe is top of this season's Welsh Karate League rankings in both her Kata and Kumite categories, while Brad has been similarly successful, unbeaten in the WKL all season.

In Weston, Kloe had a hard time, managing a bronze medal in the Kumite. The Kata category saw all Black Belts under 16 in the same pool, and giving away up to three years was too much for her.

Brad has proved himself Wales' number one on many occasions, and looked favourite to add the WKU Kata title to his name. He reached

the final, but was unlucky to see two flags go to his English opponent there.

He represented Karate Wales at an International event in Venice earlier in the month and the experience gained there seemed to have given his Kumite an extra dimension as he beat some of Britain's finest young Karate fighters on the way to the gold medal.

Brad and Kloe's mum Heidi, juggles her karate with a recent career move, but her dedication is a lesson to many young squad members.

Beginning karate in her early thirties, she has shone from the beginning, and last year won a silver medal in the Ladies Veterans' category (35 years and above) at the British Karate Federation Championships.

This year she duplicated that silver at the Karate England Open in Loughborough, and after another impressive display, again won the silver medal in Weston.

The WKU Invitational brought the curtain down on another hugely successful year for Vale Karate, which has seen over 140 titles and over 300 minor medals won!

RC

## The Rhoose under-14s in five-star show

IN their first game for several weeks, Rhoose under-14s were looking to continue with the excellent start they have made this season.

Matt Cottingham got Rhoose off to a great start when he timed his run to perfection to get on the end of a through ball by Ryan Hughes and slotted the ball home. Josh Brown had a terrific game in the heart of midfield and was a constant threat when pushing forward.

Cameron Leach increased the lead for Rhoose when he was picked out by a raking pass by Daniel Cope and his strike found the top corner. Joe Hopkins had a solid game alongside Dylan Webb who marshalled the defence well throughout the game.

Edward Thomas

made some marauding runs down the wing and set up Cameron Leach whose instinctive strike found the target.

Llantwit played some good attacking football and were rewarded with a well taken goal. In the second half Lee Bartlett's long range effort narrowly missed the target.

Rhoose keeper Harry Morgan-Grant had an outstanding game and pulled off some great saves. Patrick O'Carroll had his usual solid game in defence and made some excellent tackles. Michael Wilson worked hard and his pass gave Cameron Leach the opportunity to score his hat-trick.

Llantwit reduced the deficit towards the end of the game just before Matt Cottingham rounded off a superb game with a great goal for a final score of 5-2.

MB

## Llantwit Major darts league

Llantwit Major & District dart league tables:

'A' league table - Kings Head 'A1' 77 Wenvoe Arms 75 Call to Arms 69 Shoes Peterston 68 Fox & Hounds 59 Golden Cups 52 Rugby Club 52 Blacksmith Arms 'A2' 51 Blacksmith Arms 'A1' 48 Kings Cup 47 Four Bells 44 Lamb & Flag 44 Kings Head 'A2' 29 'C' league table - Lamb & Flag 'C1' 61 Kings Cup 49 Call to Arms 48 Lamb & Flag 'C2' 45 Golf Club 43 Kings Head 'C1' 37 Kings Head 'C2' 30 Rugby Club 11.

DC

## James lands junior title



James Hunt and Bethan Parker.

JAMES Hunt was crowned Southerndown junior team champion 2012 after competing in a thrilling final.

After a great start by both, James took control by going 3 up near the turn; however, Bethan Parker showed her grit and determination by pulling the score back to "all square" by the 15th hole.

After both feeling the strain on the 16th, James took the hole. Things looked destined to go to sudden death play-off when Bethan hit a massive drive down the 17th.

Unfortunately, this wasn't to be as James produced a majestic second shot and holed the birdie putt! The final score was 2 and 1 to James Hunt.

Dan Thomas, junior organizer, said: "It's been a great year for Southerndown with the ladies becoming Welsh champions, Lydia

Hall's superb effort on the professional circuit, the Wayfarers winning the league and finally the men's first team, which included Aled Clement, a current junior, winning the league."

This was a great final and a fitting end to a fantastic season for Southerndown.

This has a roll on effect for the juniors who are more dedicated and wishing to play through the winter period.

EH

## LOCAL TAE KWON DO STUDENTS SHINE



ON Sunday, British Open Championships. Rhys Doel of Rhoose, who competes regularly, had a good fight with a hard competitor; Rhys is still small for his division shows great commitment and courage on all competitions - well done Rhys!

Harri and Menna Birmingham of Llantwit Major TKD fought well on the day. Harri fought in the peewees although very small in his league showed no fear and gained great experience! Menna had won her first fight and got injured in the second having to pull out - well done to you both!

Hannah Hunt, a regular competitor, won her second British title. Hannah, who is very talented and dedicated, won yet again and is a force for the future.

Emily Hunt who for the past years has entered every tournament for experience and fun finally had her day!

She fought three gruelling matches and took the gold medal.

Well done to all who entered.

If you're interested in having a go at Tae Kwon Do classes we teach all over the Vale - please contact 07711234500.

JS

## Under-16s take sting out of the Scorpions

LLANTWIT Major under-16B entertained Barry Scorpions in a high scoring game at Windmill Lane with Llantwit coming out on top 7-4 winners.

The Llantwit goals came from Dan Jennings, Curt Pullum, Liam Reid (2) and a man of the match performance by Tom Rawlings who came away with a hat trick to cap off a good team performance. SC



# Llantwit Major AFC go west – and pick up another three points!

**HAVING missed the game last week due to a water-logged pitch, the Major travelled all the way to west Wales this week to play their next Welsh League fixture against Newcastle Emlyn.**

The game got underway on a lovely sunny afternoon and immediately after the referee blew the whistle to kick off, the visitors were one up after what must be one of the fastest goals of the season.

A loose ball was played high towards the Newcastle goal and with no Llantwit Major player nearby, the goalkeeper made a hash of his catch, having collided with a defender, and the loose ball fell at the feet of leading scorer Nash,

who just had to roll it over the line.

On seven minutes, the Major increased their lead when Lansdown in the Major goal kicked the ball out, a defender sliced his clearance kick and the ball fell to Lee Jones, who lobbed a beauty over the keeper to put the Major two up.

The home side were shell shocked as two simple errors had cost them two goals. They won a direct free kick on 18 minutes and the ball was struck well and Lansdown saved well at his near post.

Again it was the home side who had another chance on 25 minutes but the left footed shot was pulled wide.

The Major broke quickly following the goal kick and with some neat play, Adam Roscrow found the vet-

eran Shaw out on the left. In turn he found Tom Rees with a neat pass and Rees chipped the keeper and Llantwit went in three up at half-time.

The weather changed dramatically for the second half and the rain came down making the pitch very slippery. The home side came out looking for goals and put the Major on the back foot, requiring plenty of good defending in order to keep a clean sheet.

It wasn't to be as from some good mid-field possession by the Major, Nicky Cox was caught in possession and the home side broke quickly and scored, punishing Cox for his only mistake of the game.

This goal gave the home side a lift and they started to get on top again but the Major's confidence is such that they remain a difficult team to beat, and with Robinson marshalling a well-organised team, they will take some beating on current form.

The game was effectively killed off in 70 minutes when Leigh Pratt broke forward and

shot; the keeper was unable to hold the shot leaving the youngster Adam Roscrow with a simple tap in at the far post to put the result beyond any doubt.

A good result for Llantwit Major AFC, who now go fourth in the league table with games in hand over those teams above them.

Now with 15 points from their last five games, the Major are building their confidence levels and settling into the Welsh League in this their first season.

**Llantwit Major AFC squad:** Lansdown, Shaw, Cox, Robinson, Gould, T Rees, Morgan, Jones, Roscrow, Pratt, Nash, Faux, Constant, Renfree and Whitelam.

The Major's next fixture is away to Treowen Stars on December 8, kick off 2pm.

The club would like to thank their sponsors, Watts and Morgan, MPI Aviation and The GEM for their continued support – and also this week thanks go to Mrs Roscrow for driving the bus to and from Newcastle Emlyn.

PL

# DANCE CLUB MEMBERS ARE RECOGNISED FOR THEIR COMMITMENT



The Barry-based 'Local Motion' dance group has become the first sports club in the Vale to earn Disability Sport Wales' 'Insport bronze level award'.

**THE Barry-based dance group 'Local Motion' has become the first sports club in the Vale to earn a special seal of approval for their efforts in promoting disability sport.**

Hot on the heels of the Paralympics, sports clubs across Wales have been encouraged to sign up to Disability Sport Wales' new 'Insport' accreditation scheme to show how committed they are to providing high quality disability sport opportunities.

So far, there are 13 clubs in the Vale that have gained Insport recognition, and 'Local Motion' has become the first to attain the Insport bronze level award.

The club, which receives funding from Children in Need, meets every Thursday at 5.30pm at The Hub in Barry and has around 10-15 members.

Other local clubs such as Penarth Lawn Tennis Club, Barry and Vale Harriers Athletics, Vale Reds

Disability Football Team, Vale Allsports and the Glamorgan Anglers have all earned their 'ribbon' awards, and will now be aiming to achieve bronze, followed by the higher silver and gold levels of the scheme.

Disability Sport Wales development officer Simon Jones, who is part of the Vale Council's sports and play development team, said: "Insport aims to highlight the good practice of local sports clubs in doing all that they can to give everyone the chance to take part in sport."

"It is recognition of a club's commitment to being inclusive and providing a safe and supportive environment for sport."

Disability specific clubs and mainstream clubs alike can apply for Insport accreditation, and a number of National Governing Bodies and organisations are going through the process at the moment too.

To find out more about Insport, and the range of disability sport opportunities that are available locally, contact the Vale Council's Disability Sport Wales development officer Simon Jones by calling 01446 704728, or email [sjones@valeofglamor-gan.gov.uk](mailto:sjones@valeofglamor-gan.gov.uk).

## Under-7s slip at Rumney

**COWBRIDGE under-7s travelled away to Rumney last Sunday with eager anticipation.**

They returned home crestfallen with their recent unbeaten run having come to a frustrating end.

Rumney began strongly with two quick tries but Cowbridge also put early pressure on the Rumney defence, and the team worked hard to break through, with Joe Arentsen finding a gap and getting Cowbridge off the mark.

However this proved to be the high point of the first half, as Cowbridge were then completely outplayed, with ineffective running and missed tags costing them dear, as Rumney ran in another three tries.

This pattern continued during the first part of the second half which meant Cowbridge were trailing 7-1. The team then began to work a little harder, and thanks to an inspired performance by Sam Sheppard, Cowbridge were able to claw the

score back to a more respectable 10-6.

Sam scored a remarkable five tries in succession, thanks to his good supporting running during periods of Cowbridge pressure applied by Sam Jackson and Osian Bruce, and his skilful ability to find the gaps in the Rumney defence.

An extra half was played to give the large Cowbridge squad more match time, and the team performed better as a whole. A few more tags were seized, and more periods of pressure were converted into tries, with loan Phillips scoring in the corner and Henry Pugh charging through to score.

However Rumney also maintained their effective play and kept ahead on the try count. The Sam Sheppard show continued with two further tries, including an excellent solo effort running from the halfway line.

Sam Jackson got a well-deserved try in the corner right on the final whistle making the final score 15-11 to Rumney.

KD

## PUPILS BOUNCE TO VICTORY

**SULLY Primary School's under-11s put in a fantastic performance at the recent Welsh Schools Regional Trampoline Championships at the Sport Wales National Centre, Sophia Gardens, Cardiff.**

The team – Gabe Wilfred, Sam Sully, Megan Sully, Pia Sully, Libby John, Rowan Holownia and Jed Holownia – took the top gold medal position in the under-11s team beginners category and Gabe Wilfred achieved an individual bronze place in the under-11s boys beginners category.

The children are all members of the Caerau Vale Trampoline Club based in Penarth. A spokesperson for the club said: "We are all really proud of the outstanding results that the children achieved in their first 'big' competition."

Anyone interested in finding out more about trampolining can contact the club at [cvtc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cvtc@hotmail.co.uk).

VW

## BARRY QUARKS DRAW AGAIN

**This week, there was only one East Glamorgan match for the Barry club.**

The Quarks travelled to Caerphilly for the second successive week.

This time they took a stronger team to play the weaker of the two Caerphilly sides, the Caerphilly Rooks.

Barry outgraded Caerphilly on every board and should have expected a big win.

Unfortunately, they could only manage a 2.5-2.5 draw, as they did in the previous week against the Caerphilly Knights.

Perhaps the most significant game involved Peter Watkins taking on Beryl Hughes. Last week Peter had the white pieces and won his game.

This week the colours were reversed and Beryl took the honours.

The third round in the Club Championship has just taken place. By now the stronger players should be playing one another, as they should have gleaned more points than the weaker players.

The top three boards all ended in draws while the bottom four boards were all won by white.

Lee Davis, Nigel Ralphs and Rhys Steele all have 2.5 out of three and lead the competition. Craig Woolcock is just behind on two points.

Six players have 1.5 points, including Kevin

Gandy, Peter Watkins and Phil Jones, who are leading in the Plate.

Kevin has drawn all of his three games after playing two of the higher-ranked players and is perhaps the favourite to win the Plate.

The Alec Wood Trophy is awarded annually to the player whose grade has increased the most from July 1 to the AGM in June.

It is usually won by junior players, as their grading is more volatile. The winning grade increase varies between 230 and an unlikely 596. The current leader has an increase of 175.

It is pleasing to note that Barry has a representative near the top of the ratings.

Rhys Steele, still a junior but only just, stands in sixth place with an increase of 117.

Lee Davis is the top performing adult with an increase of 91 so far. There is still a long way to go before the Cup is awarded, so there is still time for a Barry player to shine.

For more details visit our website <http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com>

The Barry Chess Club meets each Monday at their home venue of The West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry, CF62 6QY with matches starting at 7:30pm. New players of all ages and standards are welcomed.

PJ

## Evan's double

**LLANCAEFAN'S Evan Williams is the top trainer at Ludlow Racecourse and on Monday he brought his total of wins there in the past five seasons to 42 when he took the opening maiden hurdle with four-year-old Zarzal and the novices' handicap chase with five-year-old The Rockies to complete a 17-1 double.**

Both were ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney.

*Be Bop Boru*, trained by Aberthin's Tim Vaughan, denied

Williams a three-timer when finishing two and a quarter lengths ahead of his *Devil's Dyke* in the National Hunt flat race.

*Be Bop Boru*, who

had been runner-up in his previous two starts, was ridden by Richard Johnson who earlier in the day had been successful on *Carrigmorna King* and *Return Spring* for Philip Hobbs.

**TIM'S NEWBURY WINNER**

Aberthin's Tim Vaughan saddled a nice 12-1 winner at Newbury last Friday when his *Wings Of Smoke* came home two lengths ahead of the 9-2 joint-favourite *Ballywatt*.

Unfortunately, his *Architrave* couldn't keep up the good work at Leicester on Sunday.

Made an even money favourite, it could only finish third behind *Reaction* and *The Society Man*.

**BRIAN LEE**

## Barrivale Bridge Club results

**BARRIVALE held its team championship, for the David Martyn Cup, on consecutive Tuesdays, November 13 and 20.**

The winners, with 60 per cent, were Mark Roderick, Kay Dyer, Diana Kendrick, Mick Green and Mike Best.

The Four Aces Trophy for less experienced teams was won by Ken Hannah, Reg Dyer, Tom Kendrick and Dave Thomas.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. If you would like to join telephone 01446 733425 or 01446 418380 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

MB

## Cowbridge darts league round-up

**THE Edmondson 'B', last season champions, extended their lead at the top of the table with a 9-0 victory over the Highwayman Inn on Tuesday November 27, the sixth league week of the season.**

Both teams in the chasing pack, Edmondson 'A' and Llanharry, dropped points while winning narrowly 5-4 against the Old Post Ladies and Farmers Arms respectively.

In the other games, the Hare & Hounds, playing their first home game since it recently re-opened under new management, beat the White Lion 6-3 and the Cross Inn beat the Carne Arms 5-4.

Present league standings, after six matches, are: Edmondson 'B' on 41 points, Edmondson

'A' and Llanharry on 32; Hare and Hound on 28, Farmers Arms on 25, Cross Inn on 22, Carne Arms on 21, White Lion on 19, Old Post Ladies on 17 and Highwayman Inn on 15.

The final league matches, week seven, before the Christmas break will be played on Tuesday, December 11.

Farmers Arms host the Old Post Ladies, White Lion host the Edmondson 'A', Cross Inn host Llanharry, Edmondson 'B' host the Hare & Hounds, and the Carne Arms host the Highwayman Inn.

All matches start at 8.30pm and spectators are always welcome.

For further information e-mail Paul at [cowbridgedarts@googlemail.com](mailto:cowbridgedarts@googlemail.com) – up-to-date information can be found on the website: [www.darts.apsn.co.uk](http://www.darts.apsn.co.uk).

PT

## Bridge results

**COWBRIDGE and District (Llanblethian) Bridge Club results for Tuesday, November 27:**

1st Ann Miller and Judy Springett 60.1%; 2nd Teri Pollard and Anne Hughes 59.34%; 3rd= Pauline Lane and Hugh Williams; 3rd= Pat and Brian Swain; 5th= Luba Ashworth and Joan Bird; 5th= Mearl Owen and Debbie Rosevear.

ME



# This Maserati is a beacon of light in bleak times

**I**F Bentley and Maserati can experience double digit growth during recession, just imagine what could be achieved during more affluent times.

Well, there's good news, because according to the Office for National Statistics, the double dip recession is over in the UK after GDP hit one per cent in the third quarter.

Yes, a whole percentage point folks; that will make the swelling ranks of the unemployed feel better then!

No better time, though, to test a Maserati GranTurismo S, as owned by pop star Britney Spears. Other owners include Manchester City star Mario Balotelli, who famously gave his a matt finish.

Arsenal defender Andre Santos also has one but he was arrested on suspicion of driving his dangerously following a 140mph police chase.

That is a lesson to us all because the unique selling point of a Maserati is that it is a road going racing car at a pretty reasonable price

## MOTORING with TIM SAUNDERS

(between £83,000 and a £111,000) when you consider the cost of an actual racing car.

Any vehicle is a lethal weapon but the Maserati GTS is in a league of its own meaning that its pilot carries with them massive responsibility.

The temptation to floor this beast (and that grille does literally make it look like a monster) at every opportunity is immense.

Therefore, young owners need to be particularly careful when behind the wheel.

"There's little skill required in driving such a car," says a long in the tooth motoring hack, eyeing the six-speed automatic gearbox.

"You don't even need to think about changing gear, which is why it appeals to mindless footballers..."

That's perhaps a little unfair and I detect a hint of jealousy as I show him round the pearlescent white GTS. It is possible to drive it as a manual, thanks to the paddle shifts either side of the steering wheel.

Maserati is a responsible manufacturer, offering driving courses for both owners and enthusiasts.

For sheer seat of the pants driving and gut wrenching G-force it takes much to beat a Maserati. Add the unmistakable throaty roar of the dual exhausts and the rumble this brute produces it is no surprise that Maserati has been a beacon of light during the bleak slump. Watch the video at [www.testdrives.biz](http://www.testdrives.biz).

It has unmistakable presence and style, work colleagues all agreeing that "it looks far more attractive than any Ferrari".

Parkers, the car experts, writes: "More than 60 years ago, the idea of slotting a racing car engine under the bonnet of a road-going model led Maserati to create its first GranTurismo model.

"The dream and the name have lived on through the years and the latest rendition - another masterpiece of design from Pininfarina - won instant acclaim when it was launched at the end of 2007.



ABOVE:  
The Maserati GranTurismo S.

"It is hardly surprising that this GranTurismo has customers queuing around the world. Arguably the most attractive car of its kind currently available, it oozes the opulence and feel of a thoroughbred and presents stiff opposition to the evergreen Porsche 911 and the revitalized Jaguar XKR.

"With 433bhp available from its 4.7-litre V8, performance is exhilarating."

This Italian stallion tugs at the heartstrings and has the uncanny ability of showing its driver the full range of emotions from excitement to absolute fear.

The latter is not through reckless driving either but worry of breaking down. I alter the position of the steering wheel using the little joystick to the left of it.

Starting the engine, my heart sinks as the fuel gauge needle, which usually moves

upwards, stays in its place at empty.

"Oh that's all I need," I shout.

"What's the problem?" my wife questions.

"Someone has stolen our fuel," I reply.

Neither of us has our mobile phones so the only thing to do is drive to the nearest petrol station and hope we make it. During the course of the journey, my intelligent, rational wife, successful at problem solving, notices that neither the speedometer or the rev counter are working.

"I think moving the steering wheel has caused this problem," she says.

Sure enough, when we pull into a layby and

I re-position it and re-insert the key into the ignition, the fuel gauge needle lifts and the other dials miraculously work.

My driving pleasure restored and my wife's halo polished, we drive off into the distance. Not even this experience detracts from the overall pleasure of a Maserati.

It's like a temperamental lover, but you know that life without them is just not worth living, which brings me to handing the key back to Alan, the helpful delivery driver.

You wouldn't know it to look at him, but he can pull a mean headlock.

New price range: £83,305 - £111,160.

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# HIGH SCORES FOR GOLFING FARMERS!



**THE monthly meeting of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society was held last Thursday at Radyr Golf Club, Cardiff, kindly sponsored by Cowbridge estate agents Herbert R Thomas & Co Ltd.**

A feature of the day's event that attracted 39 competitors were individual performances by Colwinston farmer Clive Edwards and also Robert Calcaterra, a senior partner of the day's sponsors. Clive Edwards' winning score of 40 stableford points, including 26 on the front nine, easily won the members' section with Neil McLean, scoring a very impressive 36 points, having to settle for second place.

Clive Thomas, with 32 points, finished third and Keith Davies, with 31 points, fourth.

Robert Calcaterra once again collected first

prize in the guest section with 38 points – two ahead of Dan Jarvis, who finished runner up. Martin McGranhan finished third with 35 points.

The handicaps of both Clive Edwards and Robert Calcaterra were the subject of much discussion at the 19th hole, with both players accepting severe reductions for the next 12 months were necessary.

Nearest the pin on the Llanerch Vineyard and Restaurant-sponsored par three holes were Neil McLean, Dan Jarvis, Robert Calcaterra, Keith Gibson and Barrie Melhuish.

Society president Geraint Davies hit the longest drive on the selected hole to win the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge-sponsored prize and Jim Hayes returned home with the Premier Turf-sponsored bottle of whisky when correctly guessing 37 balls would fail to return home, raising

£70 for the Dr Barnardo's Charity. The society's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 20 at RAF St Athan Golf Club.

TMCc

**Winning golfers Robert Calcaterra, Neil McLean, Clive Edwards, sponsor Andrew Thomas, Clive Thomas and captain Lyn Thomas**

# Llantwit Major under-13s battle to victory

**LLANTWIT MAJOR under-13s faced St Josephs, a fixture that has been closely fought in previous encounters.**

St Josephs' more composed play resulted in the first try, run in by their very strong inside centre, which was duly converted.

Normally this sees the boys lose heart, however, the boys drew from this setback, and from the restart kept their heads and set out to disrupt the St Joe's attack

with a more pressurised defence.

Hard work from forwards Kieran Fox and Lewis Sutton and ever-scavenging centre, Steffan Bugler (who has only this season moved from flanker to centre) created cracks in the St Joe's previously strong handling.

Slow progress was ever being made by Llantwit and eventually they found themselves within striking distance.

Ben Burrows spread the ball wide and good accurate passing through centres and winger Harry Lovell saw full

back Saul Connolly slide over the line.

For a while Llantwit were in the ascendancy, however a small knock on followed by a missed tackle lead to St Joe's once again pulling ahead with a try just before half-time.

The second half saw the boys playing downhill and No8 Burbidge burst through three tackles before outpacing the St Joe's winger to score under the posts, allowing flanker Declan an easy conversion, taking the teams level.

The Llantwit backs felt the need to get in on

the act with some very good handling out to wing Rhys Richards.

With territory gained and building on this charge forward, the ball was then moved to the other wing through new centre Lewis Godwin and returning fly half Lewis Brown, allowing Harry Bligh to score in his debut game.

St Joe's came back to score and make the game even. Determined not to let all the hard work they put in go to waste, from the kick-off Ollie Conway and James Broderick chased and through the hands of Burbidge, the ball went to Jake Peers.

Peers then went on a rampage, tearing down the pitch, but instead of heading for the safety of the corner he turned and headed in for the posts.

Inches from the try line he was tackled and in going to ground he passed the ball into the safe hands of Grice, who went over to score under the posts, which was easily converted by Brown.

**Final score: 24-19.**

Man of the match went to newcomer Harry Bligh. We would like to thank Martin Pilcher for refereeing a hard fought game and coaches Andy Nichol and Josh Austin.

GJ MC

# Hard-fought win for the Cowbridge under-12s

**LAST Sunday, Cowbridge under-12s enjoyed a hard fought 14-5 win away at Rummy.**

The Cowbridge forwards were considerably smaller than their opponents' pack, who played to their strengths throughout the game, never letting the ball go outside their much bigger pack.

The game's first try came from a clearing kick by the Cowbridge 10, Evan Thomas; Harry Ridge and Tom Humphreys produced a great chase, forcing the Rummy full back into a turnover.

Ioan Williams fed Sam

Green, who outpaced the covering Rummy defence to score. I Williams converted the try.

The game's second try also came from a clearing kick, this time from Ed Lewis the Cowbridge full back. The Rummy full back had no option but to simply kick the ball out of play for a Cowbridge lineout five metres out from his own line.

The forwards called a training ground lineout move which worked superbly well.

Ruben Williams, the powerful Cowbridge No8, took the back ball peel and ran into the heart of the Rummy defence.

Just before contact he offloaded to Harry Ridge who, with a great dummy and sidestep at pace, found himself under the posts for a well-worked team try; I Williams converted for 14-0.

The Rummy team had their fair share of possession and territory and scored their try from a scrum just outside the Cowbridge 22. Their No8 picked up at the base of the scrum, and outpaced the Cowbridge back row to take on the Cowbridge backs.

Some great tackling and defence kept the Rummy pack out but eventually they man-

aged to cross the Cowbridge line in the corner.

The second half saw Cowbridge show their team spirit and fantastic attitude towards defence. Time and time again the Rummy forwards battered their way towards the Cowbridge line, only to be kept out at the very last metre.

All 15 Cowbridge boys put their bodies on the line for the whole of the second half in order to maintain their unbeaten record. A great win, with great team spirit and determination against one of the biggest sides the boys will play.

GJ MC

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# GEM sport

AS WELSH PLAYERS COME TO TERMS WITH AUTUMN WHITEWASH...

## Suddenly, Six Nations could be make or break for Lions' hopes



**LEFT:** Kurtley Beale's last-minute try, which broke the hearts of a Welsh team that thought this time it had the game won.

**RIGHT:** A depressingly familiar sight this autumn.



**D**EVASTATED Welsh rugby fans leaving the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff on Saturday, after seeing victory again snatched away, literally at the last minute, by the men in gold from Oz, should not really have been surprised – given the history of cliff-edge outcomes between the two sides.

In fact, it dated all the way back to December 12, 1908, three years after the first touring All Blacks had left for home, when the 'First Wallabies' arrived in Wales on their inaugural overseas tour; during which they won 24 of 35 'friendly' matches – beating England 13-9 and, bizarrely, Cornwall (32-3) for a gold medal in the 1908 London Olympics – they were the only two teams entered!

Union chiefs back home in Oz were keen for the tour team to have 'box office value' and instructed their bemused players to perform a 'native war cry' before kick-off, a la the All Blacks' Haka!

This hilariously backfired against Cardiff RFC, when contemporary reports stated that skipper Percy Bush rushed on to the pitch waving a sword and shield! (One wonders how New Zealanders would react nowadays to a similar response to their revered Haka!)

When the First Wallabies lined up against Grand Slam Wales at Cardiff

### BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

Arms Park on that historic day in 1908, they were finally edged out 9-6.

Was history about to repeat itself, 104 years and 36 meetings later, as the two locked horns again in Cardiff last weekend – even though the pendulum had swung the other way since Wales' first Golden Age, and after the 1970s Superstars had left the world stage?

Before Saturday, the playing record read: Australia 24, Wales 10, with one match drawn (29-29 in 2006).

Yes, there had been other periodic Welsh highlights, such as the 22-21 third place play-off win in the 1987 Rugby World Cup, and two victories during Grand Slam years 2005 (24-22) and 2008 (21-18).

But the latter were the only successes in 22 clashes since 1991 and the Wallabies arrived at the Millennium Stadium confident of extending this record, after seven close-fought wins over Wales since 2009, including last year's 21-18 RWC third place play-off in New Zealand and the three summer tests in Australia (27-19, 25-23, 20-19).

For a depleted, misfiring Welsh side who had already lost three autumn tests, it was more than just another chance to stop the rot – a win was seen as crucial to maintain

their IRB ranking and avoid an unfavourable draw at the 2015 Rugby World Cup, due to be announced just two days later.

(As it turned out, surprise, surprise... Wales have drawn arguably the toughest group, having to face the host team England and, inevitably, Australia again!)

Within minutes of the start, the injury jinx that has decimated the Welsh squad and had forced Ian Evans to pull out and be replaced by Blues' Lou Reed, struck again when second row partner Luke Charteris, took a heavy blow and was unable to come out for the second half.

This unwhinged the

Welsh lineup which began to severely malfunction and, with Australia stepping up pressure on the Welsh defence, outside half Kurtley Beale failed with a penalty attempt, making amends with another kick from halfway after a promising Welsh move had come to nothing.

Man-of-the-match Leigh Halfpenny equalised with a similar long range effort and with outside half Rhys Priestland showing glimpses of returning to form with some accurate touch finders, Welsh pressure saw Halfpenny step up again to edge his team 6-3 ahead with another well-taken penalty.

In an increasingly scrappy, high energy low skills encounter, with aimless aerial punts whizzing back and forth, this narrow lead was cancelled out by another penalty from halfway by Beale, after Wales had had a try disallowed that would have put a little more daylight between the two sides.

Beale missed a chance to kick his team into the lead, but was successful when Wales conceded another penalty five minutes later.

On the stroke of halftime, the otherwise immaculate Halfpenny failed to land a penalty, and Wales were 6-9 adrift when play resumed, though holding their own against opponents who looked anything but one of the top three teams in the world.

Wales gained heart with a penalty award at the scrum – and this time Halfpenny made no mistake. When the full back followed it with a fourth penalty on the hour to put Welsh noses again in front, and Australia missed with a penalty of their own, the crowd began to hope that this time they would not be deprived of a hard won victory which would also preserve that vital IRB top eight ranking.

And so it looked as full time approached, with Wales seemingly in control and the Wallabies literally penned into a corner on their own line.

Alas, just we have seen all too often lately – notably in the three tests Down Under – frustratingly, Wales let a victory that was there for the taking slip through their fingers right at the death.

In the blink of an eye, and with just half a minute to go, the embattled Wallabies turned desperate defence

into a breakaway try scored by Beale, despite a typically courageous rear-guard tackle by Halfpenny, who was injured in the process. (He was taken to hospital but thankfully was discharged the next day).

In the wake of the 12-14 defeat, the Welsh camp were left to ponder on a bleak autumn campaign, not helped by the crippling effect of a catalogue of injuries, loss of form and unavailability of frontline players that would have taxed even those nations with much greater playing resources.

However, that cannot be the whole explanation for below-par displays that have turned widely-applauded European champions into a team now out of the top eight in the world.

There is no doubt that the squad has also suffered from the partial absence of head coach Warren Gatland, first (unavoidably) through injury and then because of Lions' duties, which will now take him away for the whole of the Six Nations in 2013.

The onus now falls on assistant coaches, who inevitably lack his charismatic influence on the squad, to

rebuild morale in the wake of a depressing series of heartbreaking defeats, in time for a Six Nations campaign that will have a profound bearing on selection for the British & Irish Lions' tour to Australia.

It had hitherto been assumed that the Lions' squad would be dominated by a large Welsh contingent, but England's shock 38-21 demolition of the All Blacks at jubilant Twickenham on Saturday, and Irish resurgence, may well cause this to be drastically revised.

In contrast, the Wales team's continuing inability to close out tight games when victory is in their grasp has become a major cause for concern in the camp.

One thing is for sure, leading Welsh players now know that the Six Nations has taken on a more crucial significance in terms of selection for the Lions' tour, and (looking much further



**ABOVE:** Leigh Halfpenny, fearless in defence and Wales' chief points scorer this autumn.

(ahead) the phased build-up to the next Rugby World Cup on 'home' soil.

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